

The SPORTS PINK

55p

Supporting **LOCAL** sport **Daily Echo**

HANTS SUPREMO TARGETING ASHES TEST FOR AGEAS BOWL

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INSIDE

**EIGHT-PAGE
GUIDE TO THE
2014-15
CHAMPIONSHIP
SEASON**

See pages 17-24

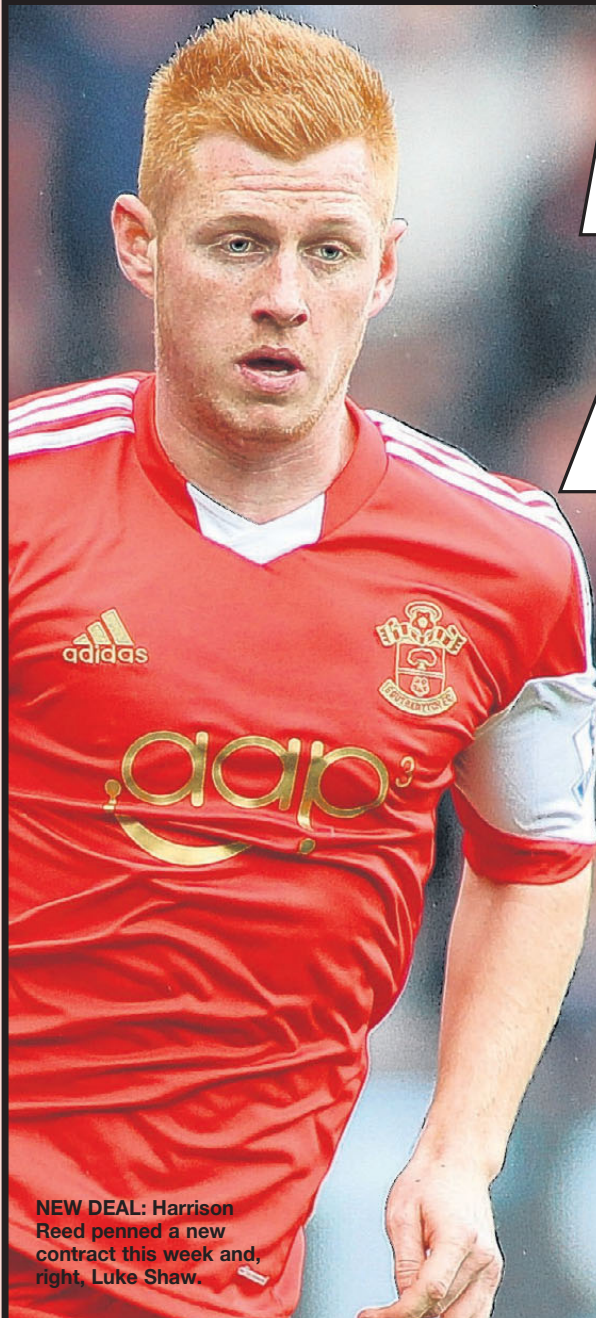
THE 2014-15
Championship



PLACE YOUR BETS! Who will win the jackpot this season?

HARRISON REED: I WANT TO MAKE AS BIG AN IMPACT AS LUKE SHAW

REED IS A SHAW THING



HARRISON Reed is desperate to emulate former Saints starlet Luke Shaw.

In a summer when talent has mainly been disappearing from St Mary's, the decision of Reed to commit his future to the club was a beacon of hope.

The 19-year-old midfielder is one of the brightest emerging talents from the Saints academy and is starting to establish himself as a firm fixture in the first-team squad.

Reed has previously shrugged off comparisons between himself and Paul Scholes – another diminutive red-head – but it is a sign of how highly rated he is that such parallels are drawn.

With his previous deal having been due to

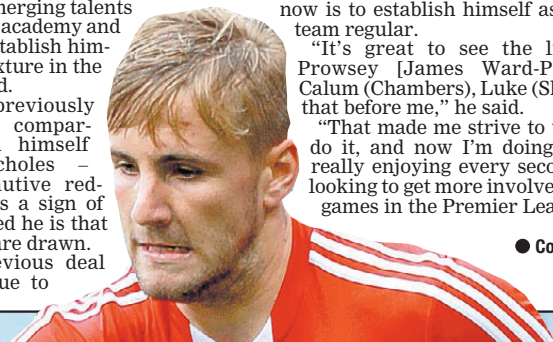
expire next summer, the teenage star was pleased to agree to a new contract for the next four years.

"I've looked to do that for a while, get it all sorted, and I'm delighted to put pen to paper and sign my future with the club," he said. Having begun to break in last season – he made eight appearances across all competitions – Reed's target now is to establish himself as a first team regular.

"It's great to see the likes of Prowsey [James Ward-Prowse], Calum (Chambers), Luke (Shaw) do that before me," he said.

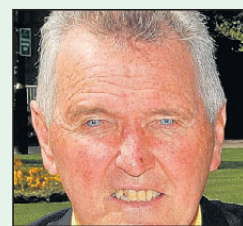
"That made me strive to want to do it, and now I'm doing it, I'm really enjoying every second and looking to get more involved in the games in the Premier League."

● Continues:
Page 5



NEW DEAL: Harrison Reed penned a new contract this week and, right, Luke Shaw.

TERRY PAINE



**Saints legend's
exclusive column**
See page 7

FOOTBALL



**Who's in and
who's out**
See pages 2-3

NON-LEAGUE



**Who will win
the SWL title?**
See pages 10-16 & 25

NON-LEAGUE



**Silverlake close to
League standard**
See page 40

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £41,000 FIND THE BALL JACKPOT: PAGE 8

Saints Spotlight



PREMIER LEAGUE INS AND OUTS

Arsenal

In: Alexis Sanchez (Barcelona) £35m, Mathieu Debuchy (Newcastle) Undisclosed, David Ospina (Nice) £3m, Calum Chambers (Southampton) About £16m
Out: Lukasz Fabianski (Swansea City) Free, Bacary Sagna (Manchester City) Free, Thomas Eisfeld (Fulham) Undisclosed.
Released: Chuks Aneke, Nicklas Bendtner, Chu Young Park.

Aston Villa

In: Tom Leggett (Saints) Free, Isaac Nehemie (Saints) Free, Philippe Senderos (Valencia) Free, Joe Cole (West Ham) Free, Kieran Richardson (Fulham) Undisclosed.
Out: Marc Albrighton (Leicester City) Free, Nicklas Helenius (Aalborg) Loan, Yacouba Sylla (Erciyesspor) Loan.
Released: Nathan Delfouneso

Burnley

In: Michael Kightly (Stoke) undisclosed, Matt Gilks (Blackpool) Free, Steven Reid (WBA) Free, Lukas Jutkiewicz (Middlesbrough) £1.5m.
Out: Junior Stanislas (Bournemouth) Free, Chris Baird (WBA) Free.
Released - David Edgar, Brian Stock, Keith Treacy, Nick Liversedge.

Chelsea

In: Cesc Fabregas (Barcelona) £27m, Diego Costa (Athletico Madrid) £32m, Mario Pasalic (Hadjuk Split) Undisclosed, Filipe Luis (Athletico Madrid) £15.8m, Didier Drogba (Galatasaray) Free.
Out: Tomas Kalas (Cologne) Loan, Wallace (Vitesse Arnhem) Loan, Sam Hutchinson (Sheff Wed) Free.

Continued on facing page

HEAT IS ON

Fan mutiny after summer mayhem



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IT'S been a remarkable summer of upheaval at St Mary's.

And the sale of Calum Chambers to Arsenal earlier this week is the straw that broke the camel's back for many disgruntled supporters.

Hundreds and hundreds of comments have been posted on most of the Saints stories appearing on the *Daily Echo's* website this week.

The sports desk has also been inundated with letters and email from angry fans disillusioned with the incredible close season exodus.

Here, we print a selection of those we have received ...

I should imagine, I am not alone in being horrified as to what has been going on at Southampton FC.

Les Reed stated categorically there would be no fire sale. He was right, it looks more like a closing down one.

The question has to be asked, how on earth have the big boys not had far more resistance in plundering our squad?

How have they been allowed to buy away players who, in some cases, were on long contracts?

Why have no "hands off" warnings been issued?

Les Reed seems to have appeared out of nowhere and acquired an awful lot of influence around St Mary's, but he has also not had a lot to say.

As for KL, we still do not know what her intentions are but with what has been going on, can we really be in any doubt?



Yes, there are more youngsters about to break through, but are they good enough to ensure survival in the Prem? If they are good enough, will they be sold off again with indecent haste? Do they really think they can keep producing youngsters at this rate? Koeman is sat on a pot of gold.

Yes, he has bought two promising players but he needs at least 3 or 4 more.

With every day that passes, I am dreading the opening day fixture more and more.

Until he buys more players, I shall remain highly cynical. Even then he has no time to get the team to gel.

The board are either utterly incompetent and deluded or they are playing a very dangerous game.

Relegation from the Prem could spell financial disaster.

Once the transfer window has shut, many of us fans will know the score.

The bottom line is simple, like many clubs, we sold our soul to a foreign owner.

We are wholly at the mercy of their whims.

Martin van Tuyl, Kingsland regular



SOLD: Calum Chambers, right, has gone to Arsenal.

What is going on at SFC, the mass exodus of talent from our club is alarming and even the new manager could not have seen all this coming.

The new board insisted we are not a selling club, well they have fooled me now that I have renewed my season ticket on the basis of the exciting talent we previously had at our disposal.

It's one thing to sell Lovren for a good profit considering his disloyalty but to sell a bright young prospect like Chambers to Arsenal, given the money we already have in the kitty from Lallana and Shaw, is a slap in the face to the fans and their hard earned cash.

The Premier League is graced with a marvellous list of young Southampton produced players and if we had added one or two more to our squad in January last season then we may have made the top four positions.

As it is, we are seeing the elitist cartel ripping the heart out of our club.

Graham Benjamin.

At the beginning of June, I aired my concerns about a possible mass exodus at Saints.

At that time only Lambert had gone and there were strong rumours about Lallana.

Many fans accused me of over-reaction and secretly I hoped they were right.

We are now weeks away from the start of a new season and have already lost five players.

There are two more waiting in the departure lounge and, as this snowball gathers momentum, there will doubtless be more.

Some replacements have been made but these can at best be considered modest.

Furthermore, it will become increasingly more difficult to attract high calibre players to a club that is quite obviously in crisis.

Mass sales of this nature only usually happen in newly relegated clubs as a cost-cutting exercise - not in a club that has just enjoyed the most successful season in its history.

The team has had the spine ripped out of it and it's not difficult to see why the odds against relegation are dropping drastically.

Asset stripping of such an avaricious nature makes the Rupert Lowe era look positively benign and one wonders, with the advent of Financial Fair Play,

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Saints Spotlight



FOR SAINTS....



COMING UNDER FIRE: Owner Katharina Liebherr and chairman Ralph Krueger.

whether there ought to be some rules put in place to guard against it.

There must be a lot of early season ticket buyers who now feel that they have been conned. Despite all of this, the best the club management can do is to issue a statement to the fans to tell them not to panic.

I would suggest that they stop treating the fans like idiots and redirect that statement at the players – who clearly are panicking!

Barry Colyer, Sholing

I am sure I am not alone in demanding that Mr Les Reed considers his position at Southampton FC.

I would be surprised if the records of the Premier League or even the Football League, showed a bigger sell out of a club than that which Mr Reed is currently presiding.

I would be interested to discover how a man with such moderate intellectual, business and football acumen could find himself at the top of such a prestigious club.

To date, he has not fulfilled one of the numerous promises made earlier.

As one of Mr Cortese's acolytes, why has he not moved on at the same time as his master?

In any case, he is clearly well out of his depth and should resign; but not before he has made arrangements to refund the thousands of season tickets sold to trusting supporters who have been patiently misled.

I believe he has done mortal damage to Southampton FC.

Patrick Hartigan, Salisbury.

I know a failure in leadership when I see it; I know from my own life's experience, both military and commercial, what failure in leadership looks like.

Leadership is all about having courage, integrity, strategic vision with an exit strategy (contingency planning), tactical capability and understanding the likely consequences of poor or unwise decisions.

Similarly, honest and clear communication with people who matter, i.e. Saints supporters. You are not going about retaining the support of Saints fans; you are just trashing it.

Loyalty and respect can only be earned; you cannot buy it.

Credibility, also, takes years to build, but can be destroyed at a stroke; it is very difficult to re-build credibility!

Money, skills and schooling on their own do not guarantee success. The essential ingredient of success is a solid set of success-oriented attitudes.

Having allowed so much talent to exit the club, what have you got to attract new very high calibre talent.

What is your contingency plan?

Continued on page 4



UNDER FIRE: Les Reed, right, with Saints boss Ronald Koeman.

PREMIER LEAGUE INS AND OUTS

from facing page

Ashley Cole (Roma) Free, Bertrand Traore (Vitesse) Loan, Thorgan Hazard (Borussia Monchengladbach) Loan, Damba Ba (Besiktas) £4.7m, David Luiz (Paris SG) Unconfirmed, Romelu Lukaku (Everton) £28m, Patrick van Aanholt (Sunderland) Undisclosed, Ryan Bertrand (Southampton) Loan
Released: Samuel Eto'o, Henrique Hilario, Frank Lampard, Mark Schwarzer.

Crystal Palace

In: Chris Kettiings (Blackpool) Free, Fraizer Campbell (Cardiff) £900,000.
Out: Kagisho Dikgacoi (Cardiff City) Free, Dean Moxey (Bolton) Free, Aaron Wilbraham (Bristol City) Free, Jonathan Parr (Ipswich) Free, Alex Wynter (Pompey) Loan, Kwesi Appiah (Cambridge United) Loan, Jack Hunt (Nottingham Forest) Loan, Jose Campana (Sampdoria) Undisclosed, Osman Sow (Hearts) Free
Released: Neil Alexander, Marouane Chamakh, Daniel Gabbidon.

Everton

In: Gareth Barry (Manchester City) Free, Romelu Lukaku (Chelsea) £28m
Out: Magaye Gueye (Millwall) Free.
Released - Mason Springthorpe, Apostolos Vellios.

Hull City

In: Jake Livermore (Tottenham) £8m, Robert Snodgrass (Norwich) undisclosed, Tom Ince (Blackpool, tribunal), Harry Maguire (Sheffield United) £2.5m, Andrew Robertson (Dundee United) £2.85m
Out: Matty Fryatt (Nottingham Forest) Free, Conor Henderson (Crawley) Free, Cameron Stewart (Ipswich) Free, Mark Oxley (Hibernian) Loan.
Released: Joe Dudgeon, Abdoulaye Faye, Eldin Jakupovic, Robert Koren.

Leicester City

In: Jack Barnby (Manchester United) Free, Matthew Upson (Brighton and Hove Albion) Free, Ben Hamer (Charlton Athletic) Free, Marc Albrighton (Aston Villa) Free, Leonardo Ulloa (Brighton) £8m, Louis Rowley (Manchester United) Free
Out: George Taft (Burton Albion) Free, Lloyd Dyer (Watford) Free, Zac Whitbread (Derby) Free, Paul Gallagher (Preston) Loan, Ben Frenpah (Ross County) Free
Released: Marko Futacs.

Liverpool

In: Rickie Lambert (Saints) Undisclosed, Adam Lallana (Saints) £25m, Emre Can (Bayer Leverkusen) £10m, Lazar Markovic (Benfica) £20m, Dejan Lovren (Saints) £20m, Divick Origi (Lille) £10
Out: Luis Alberto (Malaga, loan), Jakub Sokolik (Yeovil) Loan, Luis Suarez (Barcelona) £75m, Iago Aspas (Sevilla) Loan, Divick Origi (Lille) Loan.
Released - Michael Ngoo, Stephen Sama.

Manchester City

In: Bacary Sagna (Arsenal) Free, Fernando (Porto) £12m, Willy Caballero (Malaga) £6m.
Out: Costel Pantilimon (Sunderland) Free, Joleon Lescott (WBA) Free, Alex Henshall (Ipswich) Free, Gareth Barry (Everton) Free, Emyr Huws (Wigan) Loan, Andre Wisdom (West Brom) Loan
Released: Alex Nimely.

Manchester United

In: Ander Herrera (Athletic Bilbao) £29m, Luke Shaw (Saints) £27m.
Out: Federico Macheda (Cardiff City) Free, Jack Barnby (Leicester City) Free, Nemanja Vidic (Inter Milan) Free, Alex Buttner (Dynamo Moscow) £4.4m, Patrice Evra (Juventus) £1.2m, Louis Rowley (Leicester) Free, Rio Ferdinand (QPR) Free, Bebe (Benfica) £2.4m
Released: Ryan Giggs.

Newcastle United

In: Ayoze Perez (Tenerife) Undisclosed, Jack Colback (Sunderland) Free, Siem de Jong (Ajax) undisclosed, Daryl Janmaat (Feyenoord) Undisclosed, Emmanuel Riviere (Monaco) Undisclosed
Out: Conor Newton (Rotherham United) Free, Dan Gosling (Bournemouth), James Tavernier (Wigan) undisclosed, Sylvain Marveaux (Guingamp) Loan, Mathieu Dubuchy (Arsenal) Undisclosed.
Released: Shola Ameobi, Michael Richardson.

Queens Park Rangers

In: Steven Caulker (Cardiff) undisclosed, Rio Ferdinand (Manchester United) Free.
Out: Tom Hitchcock (MK Dons) Free, Esteban Granero (Real Sociedad) Undisclosed.
Continued on page 37

GOT A SAINTS STORY FOR US: ECHOSPORT@DAILYECHO.CO.UK

Saints Spotlight



SAINTS IS ABOUT THE FANS

from page 3

At the end of last season, the greatest performance I have ever seen in my life from Saints, we were told that in order to get into the top echelon of the Premier League, we need to add 3 or 4 high calibre talent to the existing team.

Great, I thought at the time! Now we have lost SEVEN of our best!

We have brought two (virtually unknown quantity) players from Holland.

The Dutch First Division is not the English Premier League.

I am not convinced that playing two amateur teams from nowhere on a training camp is good enough; that was so cheap, I was sick to my stomach.

Since then, we have seen Saints win 1-0 at League 1 Swindon and Championship Bournemouth.

If this new crop of Saints is an example of our Premier League material they should have easily dispatched both of those teams for more convincing scorelines than they did.

The bottom line here is that I believe you have collectively insulted all your supporters by not telling them the truth in a clear and timely manner and, further, generally displaying an incredibly poor level of management capability.

Moreover, with all due respect to our hero and saviour, Marcus Liebherr must be spinning in his grave with these insults to his memory.

Most people realise that life is not always "a bowl of cherries" – of course, we all have our ups and downs, but I doubt that anyone will forgive you if you create an abject failure this coming season.

You really need to be producing a few miracles in the next 2½ weeks.

I can only judge by results; reasons, stories and excuses will not count.

The truth is what is so, and we will all see how the truth will emerge on August 17, 2014 – and I will be watching on TV right here in Los Angeles.

For your sakes, we will all be praying that we are all wrong.



Steve Robinson.

For over 50 years I have been a Saints fan enjoying the high times of promotion and cup success and despairing in the bad times.

At the end of last season it seemed to me, like many, that we were on our way and with a few modest buys we could be amongst the best.

Sadly that now seems to have been a dream and our new manager seems likely to have to hang on to the bottom end of the table.

Or I wonder if the business side of the Saints is actually at work and will the Saints be put up for sale as a club, whilst we can still claim to be a Premiership side.

Could you blame a lady who, with her father's sad death, finds herself owning a club, which in turn owes her family money.

With recent sales, the club is solvent. I guess family debt will be paid off and a club sale would leave the family nicely in profit.

As a fan I hope I am wrong, but could you blame the lady if this conjecture is right?

Keith Gosney, Ellesmere, Shropshire.

To my way of thinking, it is not about the egos.

Saints FC is about the fans and their passion.

As Elton John said when he had a concert at St Mary's, we have one of the best fan bases in the league.

We are not like some of the top flight clubs, fans only staying when they have success.

There is an old saying 'Out of the

ashes a Phoenix will arise'.

The so called football stars who have left want to take a leaf out of Ross Barkley's book.

He is an exciting rising star but staying loyal to his boyhood club and just signed a four-year contract with Everton.

Let's have more loyalty like that at Saints.

Christine Cassell.

Dear Mr Krueger

I am writing to ask for a refund on my 2014-15 season ticket.

Five weeks ago I paid Southampton FC £738 to continue my support for the club.

Since then, Southampton FC has changed beyond all recognition, 70 per cent of our outfield first team regulars have either been sold or are soon to depart: three of our back four regulars, our two best midfielders and our strike force had left en-masse.

I do not believe that there has been such a loss of key players in any team in the Premier League.

If the Trades Description Act was still in place, I would have a legal position in that I am not going to get what I originally purchased in May 2014. That is, a Saints squad that is recognisable from last season.

I have been a loyal supporter since 1993, either as a member but mostly as a season ticket holder. I am used to ups and downs and I continued my support for the club when we were bottom of the third tier of English football with minus ten points.

This situation is, however, even bleaker than those dark days. At least then it felt that there was some control, some strategy for the club.

I am now a pensioner and £738 represents one month's pension, hence this is a considerable sum to me and I genuinely feel that I have been duped into buying something which is now a very different proposition.

I do hope that you will read and have sympathy with this letter and that you will refund my season ticket fee of £738.

Glyn Paton.

That Saints owner Katharina Liebherr and chairman Ralph Kruger leave day to day footballing matters to executive director Les Reed is proving to be a very naive decision.

In business it is the norm to leave the daily running of a company to an executive director. However, this is not a normal business.

It is a major football club with thousands of 'unofficial' shareholders. The fans. Their club, their team, their heroes and villains.

Many of whom, like me, have supported Saints all their lives. We care and we are hurting!

So, Mr Reed, in your recent statement you said, – "We are naturally disappointed whenever any of our academy graduates leave the club", you then said "Calum made it clear that he did not see his future at Southampton".

Well, tough Calum!

What about a young man who has been coached since a boy, at least honouring 2/3 years of the four year contract he signed last year.

All academy players should be told to fulfil at least half of their contract, before being considered available.

It would help if this clause also applied to all team members.

Toughen up Saints, say no sometimes.

John Carter, Bitterne.



LOYALTY:
Everton's Ross Barkley.

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REED CAN STEP UP FOR SAINTS

● From front page.

Reed added: "I'm taking each day as it comes. I'm looking to get in the matchday squad as much as possible, get some minutes under my belt and for the team to push on from last season."

"It was a great finish last season and we will look to do that again."

Reed describes Shaw, who completed a £27m move to Manchester United this summer, as a "massive" influence, and he takes inspiration from how swiftly his former colleague was able to transition from the youth ranks into the Premier League.

"I've played with him since I was a young boy," said Reed.

"Being in the same team as him and having the same success as him as a youngster has made me feel that if he's pushing on like that, nothing's stopping me from doing that, especially at this club. It's great."

"This club is where I want to be."

Reed has been a regular in the side during the club's pre-season fixtures this summer, and he believes he has benefited greatly from being so heavily involved.

"It's been really great," he said. "The training sessions are amazing, all the technical stuff that we need, all the physical stuff that we need – it's been a good pre-season."

"It's been massive for me, especially with the new manager coming in."

"It was my chance to impress him and be in his mind for the matchday squads."

"I've really enjoyed the pre-sea-

son. Going away to Belgium was really good – getting among the boys, getting to know the new lads, and them getting to know us, and I think that's been really important."

Reed hopes this could be something of a breakthrough season for him, but he knows there is great depth in the centre of midfield, with the likes of Morgan Schneiderlin, Victor Wanyama and Jack Cork at the club, as well as players such as Ward-Prowse and Steven Davis, who can also fill those roles.

"There's great competition for places in there, especially in my position," he said. "I will just look to compete, do well in training and it's up to the manager at the end of the day."

"It's really good, we've got a whole range of midfielders – attacking midfielders, defensive midfielders, box-to-box midfielders, and that's what we like to do."

"We've got all these kinds of players, and I look to fit in as one of them."

England Under-19 international Reed is also keen to learn as much as he can from the senior players who operate in his position.

"It's really important," he explained. "They're very approachable."

"You can go and ask them any question and they will give you all the answers from their experience, and that's really good as a youngster, to be able to go and speak to the more experienced players – that's what you need."



INSPIRATION: Luke Shaw.



Common are on the brink

ONE of Hampshire's oldest football clubs, Colden Common, are in crisis.

The club, first established in 1898 and re-formed in 1956, have lost their entire first-team squad with the new Hampshire Premier League season upon us.

The Commoners have reluctantly pulled out of the Wyvern Combination League and will field their reserve side in the HPL, kicking off away at Hamble Club next Tuesday (August 5, 6.30pm).

They have also been advised that they can no longer play HPL fixtures at their Main Road home because it fails to meet FA grading requirements.

They will now play some 200 yards along the road at the Lottery-funded facility at Boyes Lane.

Common have a proud history, having won six league titles since the 1990s, including back-to-back HPL crowns in 2009 and 2010. Their most famous 'son' is England international Steve Guppy who went on to play for Wycombe Wanderers, Leicester City and Celtic.

Distraught chairman Dave Hadfield admits he has never felt so low having been connected with the club on and off for 38 years.

He cites the change of ground, combined with the closure of The Black Horse pub opposite Main Road, as the major reasons behind the mass exodus of players, the bulk of whom have gone to AFC Stoneham, Alresford Town or Winchester Castle.

He explained: "Mick King, the landlord of The Black Horse, our home for many years, died about a month ago. He's an ex-chairman of the club and someone who has always been there."

"Before his death, Mick had already taken the decision to close The Black Horse and it no longer exists as a public house."

"On top of that, the FA have deemed that Main Road can no longer be used for HPL fixtures. It's nothing to do with the pitch, the changing rooms are not big enough and teams don't have separate showers."

"Our players always enjoyed playing at Main Road and switching the pitch has done nothing to

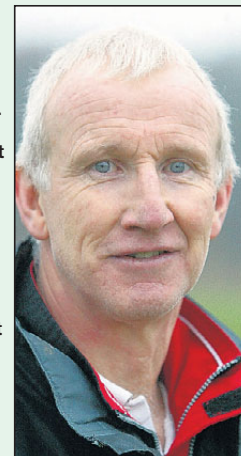
help us."

To maintain consistency, reserve team boss Curtis Osborne will continue to run the side in the HPL, supported by under-18 manager Dan Martin.

Dave Wood, last term's manager, and his right-hand man Steve Blackburn will stay involved with the club but not as first-team bosses.

"Dave's keen to continue his involvement, but it's his side that have left the club and we've had to make the difficult decision that our manager should be the person who ran the reserves," said Hadfield.

"We've still got vets, under-16s and under-18s, but we'll be fielding just one senior side this season and I must admit I'm concerned about the quality and numbers we've got available to compete in the HPL Premier."



DAVE HADFIELD

"No matter what happens now it's going to be a struggle, but I've got to believe that it's peaks and troughs and we'll bounce back."

"At the moment I'm as low as I've ever been as club chairman. I've been here on and off for 38 years and our secretary Ian Steele has been here a bit longer than that and we're both feeling this."

"What's sad about it is that

the one thing this club has always been able to offer above the Eastleighs, Sholings and Tottons is that under-18 players WILL progress to adult football, there's no might about it."

"There's no way we would ever pay players and we're struggling to make ends meet most seasons, but we've always been a well-run club. The Echo once referred to us as 'the friendly club' and it's true. Players who leave us usually come back – I just wish a few of them would do so now."

"Just at the moment, I can't see how we're going to come out of this."

Common urgently need new recruits for HPL football. The club train Tuesdays and Thursdays at Main Road (7pm start).

Contact numbers for club officials are available on the official website <http://coldencommonfc.squarespace.com/>

SAINTS MARCHING OUT

Player exodus hurts, but there is hope

ANOTHER ONE GONE: Calum Chambers joined Arsenal this week.

ANOTHER week and yet another player exits St Mary's.

The football club resembles an Agatha Christie who-dunnit as, yes, another body leaves the crime scene.

The whole football club is going to hell in a handcart...

Or is it?

This is not Portsmouth FC.

The club haven't had a massive sale of its brightest and finest without a penny going back into the club coffers.

This is close to £100 million in the bank and to date there has not been one statement saying that club won't spend that money.

What angers me isn't the sale of the players, it's the lack of decisive leadership.

If you look at the sales individually they make perfect sense.

Luke Shaw? £30 million for a left back? I'd bite your hand off for that money.

£16 million for Calum Chambers? Not even a full season under his belt, crazy money, the same now as what Newcastle paid to break the English transfer record for Alan Shearer in 1992.

£25 million for Adam Lallana? Again, crazy money. £4 million for Rickie Lambert, 32 years old and arguably past his best. £20 million for Dejan Lovren, huge money for a treacherous mercenary just so the rest of his body can join

betrayal hurts all the more.

The harsh truth is that the balance of power has swung way too far in favour of the footballer.

The behaviour of all of the footballers involved in this whole sorry fiasco has been appalling.

Football, as a whole, hasn't come out of this well.

Social media has seen posts from Saints fans stating they'll be handing their season tickets back and how angry they feel at the way players have left in their droves.

"Football's just a business these days" they bleat as they seek a refund.

If that's the case then why are you behaving like customers then rather than fans?

You can't have it both ways.

Football has changed but it's still the same modern game when we take players from lesser clubs as it is when the bigger clubs club pilfer our brightest talent.

Modern football is a strange beast but the harsh truth is that Southampton FC aren't responsible for our current plight. Neither are Liverpool, Manchester United or Arsenal.

The problem lies with an establishment that allows individuals to behave abysmally, break contracts without breaking a sweat and yet suffer no punishment for their actions.

The problem lies with the Financial Fair Play initiative which effectively means that if a club's total wage bill is above £52 million per year, they're not allowed to increase their wage bill by more than about £4 million per year.

Now, bearing in mind that in 2013 Arsenal's accounts showed a wage bill of £150 million plus, Liverpool around £130 million and Manchester United wading in with a wage bill of over £180 million... Saints come in at around the mid £40 million mark...

Where is the fair play when only a select few clubs can benefit from it?

Now bearing in mind the Financial Fair Play initiative states we can't increase the wage bill by more than £4 million a year, how on earth can we possibly match the wages offered by the big four?

The answer is never, especially when the likes of Manchester United are getting £40 million with Chevrolet's shirt sponsorship deal already in place from August 2015.

And with Adidas on the horizon, they'll be earning £125m a season just from their shirts.

To put that into perspective, Crystal Palace are getting £750,000 a year with GAC...

Financial Fair Play, my backside...

In closing, you just have to have faith.

The club has been a victim of its own success and nothing shows how much Saints scared the Premier League hierarchy more than the attempted dismantling of the squad.

You see a club that did everything right ripped apart by the very clubs that buy success rather than growing it organically.

Football in this country needed Saints to succeed. The fact that we've been plundered so savagely tells you all you need to know.

Get behind the club, keep hold of your season ticket. And believe...

BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

BY DAREN WHEELER

his head up at Anfield.

Individually all of these transfers make sense. But add them up and you have half your starting eleven gone...

By anyone's standards, it's the single biggest dismantling of a team in English football history.

When you bear in mind the club is supposedly not under any pressure to sell, if it's not suspicious it's inept.

The whole fiasco makes a mockery of the fair play rules put in place to ensure a more even playing field.

How can it possibly be fair for any club to sign three players from one club and then make very public overtures to another two?

No doubt fans of other club find it all very amusing and to a man the standard reply is: "Well, that's football."

But it's not, it's as far removed from real foot-

ball as you can get. What you are looking at is a corporate raid, you're looking at breaches of employment law that in any other business would have resulted in suspension or dismissal.

In what other business could an employee withhold their services until they got what they wanted?

If you or I tried that we'd be suspended or given our P45 sharpish.

Why should a footballer be any different?

Other clubs' fans' views of

the situation seem to fit into

two categories: the plastic

fans who can't see why we'd

be upset by the actions of the

players that have

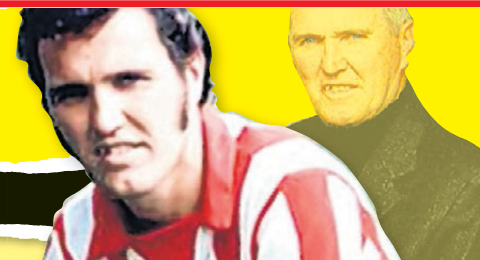
demand a transfer and the

real fans who are devastated at the betrayal.

If you've never followed your club live then you'll never understand the relationship real football fans have with the players. For the plastics they're just a tick on their fantasy football league team sheet. For real fans they mean something and their

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



SHOOTS OF RECOVERY

It seems to be accepted as fact these days that English football is irreparably broken.

The Premier League has sucked up all of the cash from the lower levels and effectively killed off the grassroots game.

Our biggest clubs have ceased to be steadily developed regional powers run on self-sustaining business models and English footballers rarely have a conventional career path of incremental growth and, worryingly, seem to be washed up or burned out before they reach 30 years of age.

Instead, the Premier League's oligarch-owned superpowers Hoover up the best English talent while the players are still in their mid-to-late teens, only to let them rot and squander their potential in 'Elite Development Squads', comfortably away from the first team football that they need in order to reach the heights in their mid-to-late twenties.

The likes of Grant Holt, Rickie Lambert and Adam Lallana, all of whom spent the early parts of their careers learning the game in the lower leagues, are seen as flukes, the lucky few who bathed in pigswill and somehow ended up smelling of roses.

In reality, the three are examples to every youth teamer in the Premier League.

They represent proof of what talent can achieve if it chooses to play the long game: to drop down the pyramid, stay focused and play every week instead of signing for a top-four club in the vain hope that, one day, enough first team stars might come down with the flu to allow them a spot on the bench for a Cup game.

Obviously, the financial packages on offer are inevitably going to convince most youngsters to chase the Champions League dream.

When any eighteen year-old is offered terms that mean he and his family will never have to work again, of course he's going to sign the contract as quickly as possible and never look back.

Secondly, it is undeniably true that the standard of coaching is undoubtedly higher for Manchester United's youth team than it is for, say, Rotherham United's first team.

When it comes to educating a player and preparing him for Champions League football the standard that every young player aims to reach, there's no comparison.

While both of those things are true, it does seem that they have taken an unjustified precedence in the minds of a generation of English youngsters.

There's no substitute for first team football and the benefits of being patient while learning the ropes are numerous.

Between the ages of 20 and 22, Andrea Pirlo played 38 games for Reggina and Brescia. David Villa spent his early years playing for Sporting Gijón and Real Zaragoza and didn't experience Champions League football until his second season with Valencia, by which time he was 24.

Thiago Silva didn't get his big European

move to Milan until he too was 24, albeit partly because earlier spells with Porto and Dynamo Moscow had been curtailed by a life-threatening case of tuberculosis.

None of the above

DEVELOPMENT:
Adam Lallana.



The last decade in English football has been a long, monotonous lesson in talent mismanagement and a sad example of youthful greed.

Thankfully, the penny seems to be dropping.

The cautionary tales of players like Michael Woods, Tom Taiwo and John Bostock, all of whom moved for sizeable fees as teenagers but found their paths to first team football permanently blocked, are finally being understood.

So too those of players like Steven Gerrard, Wayne Rooney and Phil Jones, who played Champions League football right from the beginning but have spent their careers being used as team sport's equivalent of a Swiss Army knife, doing two or three jobs per season instead of refining their talents in their preferred role.

Adam Lallana and Rickie Lambert moving to Liverpool should be welcomed as a sign that English football is getting back on course – that the traditional and correct path of player development is starting to be followed logically once again.

Jordan Henderson, Raheem Sterling and Jon Flanagan have been brilliantly handled by Brendan Rodgers and should continue on their upward trajectory.

Nathaniel Clyne, Jack Cork and James Ward-Prowse will come on leaps and bounds playing every week at Southampton.

It's all rather exciting in an understated way.

Of course, none of this means that everything that was wrong has now been fixed and that England are going to re-emerge as a force on the international scene, their players spoken of in hushed tones and their performances regarded by the rest of the world with absolute awe.

It just means that we are learning how to develop talent again.

It's just a beginning and it could well lead to nothing, but it could also be the start of a successful era.

● I SMILED this week when I was sent this photo via a family friend.

It's of a young lad called Tobey Ferguson, who was getting a bit upset about the amount of players leaving Saints this summer.

So, rather than get the name of a current squad member on his new shirt, he apparently insisted on getting mine.

It's nice to see 'Paine 7' grace the strip again – I can't imagine you see that on many of them these days! And don't worry, Tobey, I'm Saints for life!



SOUTHERN
Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL



THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

£41,000

or £2,750 Nearest miss prize

PLUS 70 consolation prizes of £15 each week**20 for Southern Daily Echo
20 for Daily Echo Bournemouth
10 for Dorset Echo
10 for Sunday Independent
10 for Brighton Argus**

FIND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot and £50 will be added to the nearest-miss prize.

The nearest-miss prize will be paid out to the competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £6,000 and the nearest-miss prize at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 45 weeks, when standing at £50,000, three nearest miss prizes will be awarded totalling £24,000 – with a first prize of £12,000, a second prize of £8,000 and a third prize of £4,000.

The jackpot for the following week will be £26,000 with £1,000 being added each week. The nearest miss prize will be £2,000 with £50 added each week until the jackpot prize reaches £50,000.

If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES
Thursday
9am,
7 August
2014
Names of winners will be published on
Saturday,
9 August
or Sunday
10 August
2014

An incident in a Winchester v Sutton match

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE ONLY



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2 August 2014 Please cross box

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Deadlines for branch office collection boxes are as follows:
Bournemouth Echo
12 noon Tuesday
Southern Daily Echo
12 noon Tuesday
Dorset Echo
Closing time Monday

Deadlines for selected newsagents collection boxes as listed in:
Bournemouth Echo
closing time Monday
Southern Daily Echo
10.00 am Tuesday
Dorset Echo
Closing time Monday

A list of participating newsagents will be published in the Echos on the first Saturday of each month

CASH PRIZE EVERY WEEK

Please complete entry form and send to:

FTB COMPETITION
Newspaper House
Test Lane
Southampton
SO16 9JX

Cheques payable to Newsquest

Daily Echo

Winners

Competition number **S28**

JACKPOT WINNER NO WINNER

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr A Hill, Verwood, Dorset

who wins the nearest miss prize of £2,700

The following competitors each receive a consolation prize of **£15**

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J Baker, Totton, Hants	J Morris, Southampton, Hants
M Baker, Southampton, Hants	C Pratt, Eastleigh, Hants
R Banks, Southampton, Hants	B Reid, Eastleigh, Hants
M Barker, Southampton, Hants	J Reid, Southampton, Hants
L Blakely, Southampton, Hants	M Reid, Southampton, Hants
B Butt, I.O.W, Hants	M Savage, Romsey, Hants
L Crawte, Hedge End, Hants	B Shore, Southampton, Hants
D Davis, Southampton, Hants	M Vanderplank, Romsey, Hants
W Keens, Winchester, Hants	M Webber, Totton, Hants

Rules

1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 325 per coupon. Coupons with 326 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. **2.** Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. **3.** No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. **4.** Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed 'S & Co.' Stamps **will not** be accepted in payment. **5.** A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. **6.** The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. **NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO.** **7.** Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. **8.** Address entries to FTB Newspaper House, Test Lane, Southampton SO16 9JX in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. **9.** Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. **10.** Do not send cash in the post. **11.** Winners will be required to participate in publicity. **12.** Photocopies not accepted. **13.** For rules go to www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules, www.newsquest.co.uk/terms or write in for a copy.

Non-league Football



Phillips builds new Town

ROMSEY Town manager James Phillips is now fully focused on the new Sydenhams Division One season after a hectic closed-season that has seen a complete squad overhaul.

The Bypass Ground side, who were relegated from the Wessex Premier last term, have been busy creating a new era at the club.

Phillips took the helm at the end of April and has since worked alongside the club's board to build a side

with, what they hope are, promotion credentials as they look to bounce-back up at the first time of asking.

A flurry of players came to train with Town as they looked to create an entire squad from scratch, and the 21-year-old boss had the task of whittling his squad down from 40 players.

Phillips has now bedded in his players and has been delighted with the team spirit that has developed.

"It's been an intense summer," he said.

"We've basically created a club from scratch.

"It's good now to slow down a bit and really focus on the opening game against New Milton.

"I'm really pleased with how it's

gone and how close the lads have become in a short space of time."

The pre-season schedule has seen Romsey win three and lose one. They claimed victory against a trio of Hampshire Premier League opposition but came underdone against a strong Weymouth side 5-0.

Although the summer's busiest spell is over before the season starts, Romsey could see three more signings join before the new campaign starts on Saturday, August 9 at New Milton. Former AFC Totton player Danny Balogun is currently on trial, with Phillips still considering whether or not to sign him.

And the boss admitted two more players will also be training over the coming weeks but wished for their

names to remain anonymous.

Phillips is yet to name his on-field captain for the season but has given the role of club captain to veteran centre back Ben Andrews.

The 33-year-old has been at the Bypass for seven seasons and Phillips felt he has an important role to play.

"He brings endless experience to the table," he said.

"It's important for him to be around the dressing room because he's able to pick the team up when things are looking down."

Elsewhere, development team manager David Gray stepped down from his position due to work and family commitments which meant he was unable to continue his duties.

EK OF A DEAL ...

POOLE Town boss Tom Killick claims Ekow Elliott's shock decision to drop two divisions and rejoin Blackfield & Langley was "purely down to money."

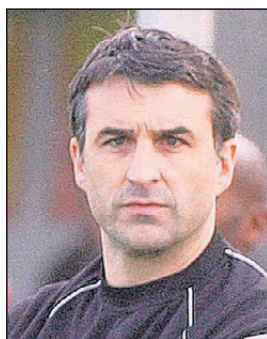
After catching the eye in Blackfield's Sydenhams Premier championship-winning side of 2012/13, winger Elliott proved a hit with the Dolphins last season as they finished seventh in the Southern Premier Division.

But instead of trying to push even higher with the Dorset club, the former Aldershot Town youngster has gone back to Blackfield who, after an unsettled 2013/14 campaign, have set their sights on silverware again.

Discussing Elliott's departure, Killick told *The Pink's* sister paper *The (Bournemouth) Daily Echo*: "It was purely down to money."

"You wouldn't drop down two divisions for football reasons, but Blackfield made him an offer so lucrative that he felt he couldn't turn it down."

"It is disappointing to see a player in his mid-20s dropping down at this stage of his career, but sometimes peo-



TOM KILLICK

ple have to make decisions for non-football reasons. It happens."

Elliott was a star of the Blackfield side that won the Wessex title under Ashley Vickers two years ago and will be hoping history repeats under the experienced stewardship of John Robson.

The wide man tweeted: "Pleased to be back and scoring goals at @bandlfc. Hope it's another season to remember for The Watersiders."

With Killick already short of forwards, losing Elliott was the last thing he needed.

He has, however, secured temporary respite in his search for fresh firepower by

agreeing to take AFC Bournemouth rookie Josh O'Hanlon on an initial month's loan.

Asked whether the move would bring an end to his pursuit of new forwards, Killick - who has been linked with interest in Sholing's Lee Wort - added: "I don't think so, not now."

"If we hadn't lost Ekow we might have been okay, but his departure created a bit of concern. I would certainly like to have another striker on board."

"Josh is a player I have admired for some time," added the Tatnam chief.

"For such a young lad he has good strength and power along with a lot of technical ability."

"We knew about the possibility of this one for a while, so it was nice to get it all confirmed. The timing couldn't be better with Ekow leaving."

Poole beat Blackfield 2-1 in a friendly at Tatnam on Tuesday - goals by Marvin Brooks and Warren Byerley eclipsing Neil Williams' strike for the Watersiders.



POOLE EXIT:
Ekow Elliott (green/white).

Tessem returns

JO Tessem has returned to the coaching staff at Sydenhams Premier Division outfit Totton & Eling.

The ex-Saints and Norway midfielder is a familiar face at Millers Park having previously helped out former manager Kev Dawtry as player-coach.

He drifted away last season but, following a phone call from newly-appointed T&E boss Wayne Mew, the 42-year-old, pictured below, is keen to get back involved.

"It's quite a coup for us," said Mew.

"We needed a coach and tried hard to get one, but everyone we spoke to already had things sorted out."

"But then I phoned Jo and he was interested in coming back on the coaching side and he's signed on as a player as well in case we need him."

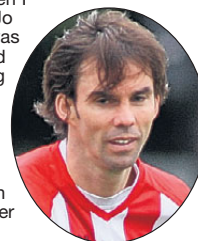
"The fact we've got quite a new, young side makes it good for us to have someone like Jo around. You can't buy that sort of experience."

"Plus, it gives us a possible link to Totton College where Jo coaches."

With just 21 teams in the Sydenhams Premier this season, T&E are the odd ones out this weekend and will kick off the new campaign at fancied Newport IOW on Tuesday.

Two more 'old boys', midfielder Matt Monk and central defender Jamie Feasey, have returned and another experienced pair, Richard Hayter and Ross Gregory, have switched camps from Mew's old club Romsey.

The Millers have also recruited promising young goalkeeper Matt Fredericks, a youth/reserve team graduate from neighbours AFC Totton.



MORE NON-LEAGUE ON PAGES 10-16, 25 AND 40

Non-league Football

TODAY'S NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL FIXTURES

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Bemerton HH v Petersfield, Blackfield & Langley v Andover Town, Brockenhurst v Newport IoW, Fareham Town v Whitchurch Utd, Hordean v Hamworthy Utd, Moneyfields v Alresford Town, Winchester City v Bournemouth Poppies

Wessex Premier Division 2013/14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sholing	42	33	5	4	134	29	104
Alresford Town	42	31	4	7	125	52	97
* Folland Sports	42	27	7	8	100	48	85
Newport (IoW)	42	25	9	8	105	47	84
Winchester City	42	25	6	11	93	41	81
Blackfield & Langley	42	23	9	10	81	57	78
Bemerton	42	22	5	15	99	65	71
*AFC Portchester	42	21	13	8	86	43	70
*Moneyfields	42	21	10	11	75	53	67
Fareham Town	42	18	8	16	78	81	62
Brockenhurst	42	17	8	17	72	82	59
Hamworthy United	42	16	9	17	78	78	57
Whitchurch United	42	16	7	19	57	69	55
Lymington Town	42	15	5	22	71	99	50
Bournemouth	42	12	7	23	66	89	43
Christchurch	42	11	7	24	56	112	40
Hordean	42	10	7	25	55	95	37
Totton & Eling	42	12	0	30	54	117	36
Verwood Town	42	8	10	24	45	78	34
Fawley	42	7	9	26	49	108	30
Downton	42	6	8	28	49	121	22
Romsey Town	42	6	7	29	43	107	24

* pts deducted

Wessex Division 1 2013/14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Petersfield Town	30	23	5	2	118	36	74
Andover Town	30	23	4	3	108	28	73
Cowes Sports	30	22	3	5	84	36	69
Hythe & Dibden	30	19	5	6	85	37	62
Tadley Calvea	30	15	7	8	64	43	52
* Team Solent	30	16	5	9	82	51	50
US Portsmouth	30	14	5	11	61	53	47
Pewsey Vale	30	14	4	12	59	52	46
Laverstock & F	30	12	2	16	46	54	38
Amesbury Town	30	12	2	16	56	66	38
New Milton Town	30	10	2	18	69	71	32
Fleet Spurs	30	8	3	19	50	79	27
Ringwood Town	30	7	1	22	41	104	22
Hayling United	30	6	4	20	47	106	21
Andover NS	30	7	0	23	33	111	21
East Cowes	30	4	4	22	32	108	16

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE

PREMIER LEAGUE

Premier Division: AFC Stoneham v Headley Utd, Bush Hill v Baffins Milton Rovers, Hamble Club v Otterbourne, QK Southampton v Locks Heath, Winchester Castle v Paulsgrove.

Premier Division 2013/14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Baffins Milton	32	23	7	2	87	28	76
Locks Heath	32	19	8	5	77	39	65
Headley United	32	17	8	7	74	44	60
Winchester Castle	32	18	4	10	67	47	58
Overton United	32	17	4	11	71	61	55
Liphook United	32	16	6	10	83	62	54
Clanfield	32	16	5	11	77	56	53
Colden Common	32	14	6	12	66	60	48
Paulsgrove	32	14	5	13	73	61	47
AFC Aldermaston	32	13	7	12	71	65	46
Otterbourne	32	14	3	15	64	56	45
AFC Stoneham	32	12	4	16	60	73	40
Hedge End	32	9	8	15	53	66	35
Fleetlands	32	8	4	20	50	106	28
QK Southampton	32	6	6	20	49	87	24
Liss Athletic	32	6	4	22	49	80	22
Bournemouth Sp	32	4	3	25	33	113	15

Division 1 2013/14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bush Hill	18	16	0	2	87	17	48
Hamble Club	18	13	3	2	85	11	42
Infinity	18	11	2	5	49	28	35
Andover Lions	18	10	3	5	54	34	33
Lyndhurst	18	10	3	5	51	36	33
Broughton	18	7	1	10	35	59	22
Upham	18	7	0	11	41	56	21
Four Marks	18	5	1	12	30	58	16
Michelmersh & T	18	2	1	15	22	94	7
Durley	18	2	0	16	24	85	6

FRIENDLIES

AFC Totton v Dorchester Town, Arundel v Sholing, Basingstoke Town v Woking (2.00), Poole Town v Basingstoke Town, Wimborne Town v Gillingham Town, Yateley Utd v Sholing Res.

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

THIS time last year a whopping 19 out of 22 Sydenhams Premier clubs tipped Sholing to take the title – and the Boatmen didn't disappointment.

Dave Diaper's men proved the majority of pundits right by romping to the Wessex crown and throwing in the FA Vase for good measure.

With the buoyant Boatmen now heading back to the Southern League, the big question on everyone's lips is who will succeed them at the top of the Wessex tree.

As many as half a dozen clubs could be in the running, but it seems that most roads lead to Winchester City.

Although not quite as well backed as Sholing were last summer, the Denplan City Ground outfit have convinced 14 out of 21 clubs that they can repeat their title-winning exploits of 2011/12 when Guy Butters was at the helm.

Plenty of water has flowed under the bridge since then, but the capture of successful Alresford Town managerial duo Tim Cole and Danny Robinson – along with 11 Magpies players – suggests City are the team to beat.

Newport IoW – a fine fourth last term – are the next best backed with four votes, followed by two for 2012/13 champions Blackfield & Langley and one for Graham Rix's AFC Portchester.

Somewhat surprisingly there were no votes cast for the pride of Hamble, Folland Sports, who ended a phenomenal 2013/14 campaign in a highest ever third spot.

Non-League reporter Wendy Gee has been chatting to the Sydenhams Wessex elite about their title fancies and prospects for the new campaign.

PAT McMANUS (MANAGER) – BROCKENHURST

I suppose everyone will be looking in Winchester's direction now that Sholing are out of the picture.

Winchester have got to be firm favourites. They've made it clear their aspiration is to get promoted.

After them, I'd imagine Portchester will have a good season, although I don't know whether all the Portsmouth derbies will take their toll.

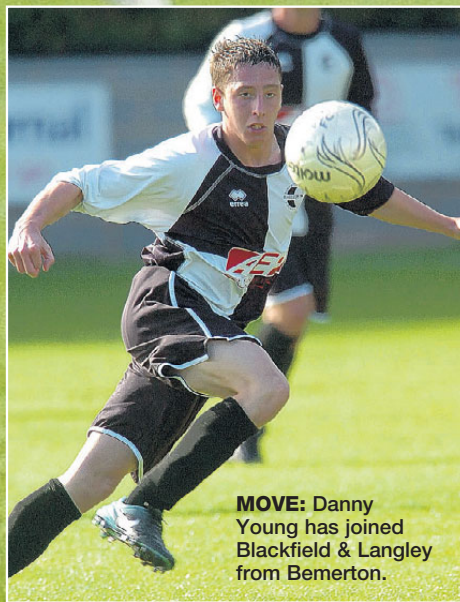
Below Winchester I can see it being a league within a league and Bemerton will probably have a better season if Joyce (former Brock striker Scott Joyce) starts finding the net.

I'd probably take Winchester, Portchester and Bemerton as the top three. Then you've got the likes of Hamworthy, who should start strong from the off this year, and the two promoted teams, Petersfield and Andover Town, will be capable of taking points off everyone.

The league will be equally strong this year, even without Sholing, and from our point of view we'll be looking to improve on 11th last season.

Our main objective is to not drop as many points as we did last year to teams in the bottom half.

RIVAL BOSSES TIP Cole and Robinson backed to win title fight



MOVE: Danny Young has joined Blackfield & Langley from Bemerton.

We'd been short of a striker, but we've managed to sign Darryll Phillips from Winchester.

Title tip: Winchester City

MATT PARR (MANAGER) – FAREHAM TOWN

Everyone's talking about Winchester City, but Newport IoW will take some beating.

They've got a good squad and have brought two or three of the better

players back.

They've got a good manager in Steve Brougham and they're always very hard to play against at home.

The team know each other inside out and they know where they are with the manager. They've got a strong bond.

With new managers (Tim Cole and

Island

Danny Robinson) and players in at Winchester, it might take them a year or two to get the team spirit and camaraderie together that they had at Alresford.

As for Fareham, it's important for us to get back into the top-six (after finishing tenth last term).

We struggle financially, but there's no reason for us not to be up there. That's why I've changed some of the players and coaching staff.

To be fair, we would have finished

FAVOURITES:

Winchester City, who include classy striker Zach Glasspool, right, have been backed to land the Sydenhams Premier title.

FOR THE LATEST NON-LEAGUE NEWS VISIT

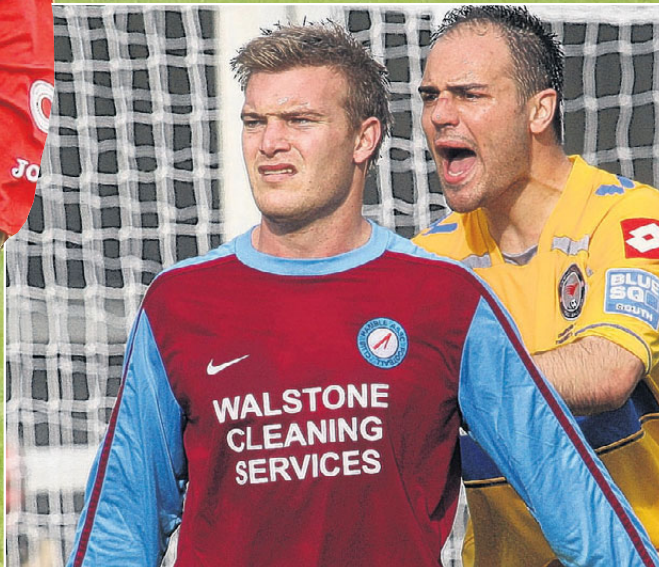
Non-league Football



CITY FOR GLORY



COUP: Petersfield Town have signed Warren Hunt.



BLOW: Jamie Musselwhite has left Portchester.

last season but for all the

higher

wet-weather postponements. We were out on our feet at the end and had nothing left in the locker.

There are a lot of Portsmouth derbies this year and that could affect teams dropping points. The Pompey sides could cut each other's throats!

Title tip: Newport IoW

GRAHAM RIX (HEAD COACH) – AFC PORTCHESTER

As usual, it will be tough.

Last year Sholing were far and away the best team in the league, but there will be quite a few thinking they've got a chance this time.

Blackfield & Langley have invested heavily, as have Winchester, and I'd imagine those two would be

right up there.

Winchester have signed some good players from Alresford – plus backroom staff – and they will be the ones to beat, I believe.

We did really well last year, finishing eighth, and if we do anywhere near the same this season we'll be pleased.

We've lost (targetman) Jamie Musselwhite to Blackfield, which is a big blow to us, and there's so much happening here off the pitch.

It's slowly-slowly for us because

we're trying to make sure that, first and foremost, we're a well-run club. We've got more or less the same squad as last season and we'll work with what we've got.

We want to try and develop these lads and, if it takes two or three years, then so be it.

We've got some good, young players here who I trust for the future.

Title tip: Winchester City

IAN SAUNDERS (MANAGER) – PETERSFIELD TOWN

There's one standout candidate – Winchester City.

With the players they've signed from Alresford and a couple they've got from outside the Wessex League, they'll be strong.

I also think that (potentially) signing Scott Jones from Havant & Waterlooville will be massive for Newport and, if they manage to get Alek Przespolewski back from Havant too, they could mount a challenge.

If pushed, I'd go for Winchester because Danny (Robinson) and Tim (Cole) have taken the crux of a good Alresford side there and I wouldn't have thought it would take them long to gel.

Blackfield are a dark horse. Robbo (manager John Robson) has pulled in some decent players. I know Robbo well, he's a wily old character, a top bloke and a good coach. And, don't forget, they've still got Kev Gibbens there.

Petersfield have just come up and I just hope we're having this same conversation next year, meaning we're still a Premier Division side!

We've signed (striker) Warren Hunt which is fantastic for a club like ours. We scored lots of goals with a young strike force in Division One, but we're up with the big boys now and I wanted to make sure we'd got some experience – and Warren fills that void.

I'm confident we won't be relegated. We might even surprise some of the big boys.

We only had US Portsmouth as local rivals last year, but now we've got Horndean, Fareham, Moneyfields and Portchester – plus Alresford aren't far away. I'm looking forward to it.

Title tip: Winchester City

JOHN ROBSON (MANAGER) – BLACKFIELD & LANGLEY

I'd like it to be us and I think we'll have a good chance.

I thought Portchester might have a good run, but we've taken (targetman) Jamie Musselwhite off them and that will have a big effect.

It's the same with Bemerton. We've signed Kane O'Keefe and Danny Young, who were two very important players for them.

I also spoke to (striker) Joe Sanger, who's right up there with Jamie Musselwhite, and he told me he was taking a year out to enjoy his fishing. Bemerton will get in some good lads, but replacing three players like that won't be easy.

I tried to sign (centre-back) Scott Sampson as well, but he lives two minutes away from Newport IoW and has signed for them.

Continued on page 12

Final piece of the jigsaw

IT'S been a long search, but Brockenhurst have finally found the missing piece to their Sydenhams Premier jigsaw.

After talking to striker after striker this summer, manager Pat McManus has finally come up trumps with Darryl Phillips from Winchester City.

Formerly with Winchester Castle and Stockbridge, Phillips made 20 appearances for City last season, scoring five goals.

But with prolific ex-Alresford duo Warren Bentley and Zach Glasspool for company at the Denplan City Ground – plus former Eastleigh bright spark Sam Wilson – his chances of playing regularly had diminished.

Confirming Phillips had left the club, Winchester's director of football Dave Malone said:



NEW STRIKE SIGNING:

Darryl Phillips has left Winchester to join Brockenhurst.

"Darryl feels (probably correctly) that his first-team opportunities would be limited at City and, quite naturally, he wants to play regular first-team football.

"Darryl has a great attitude, is a good trainer and, above all, he's a nice bloke. We wish him well."

Phillips started as he means to continue for Brock last weekend, scoring in a 3-3 friendly draw against Hellenic League side Binfield.

Two players on the move from Grigg Lane are defender Jamie Blackburn, now with AFC Totton, and veteran defender Carlo Tate, who has linked up with ex-Badgers boss John Pyatt at Lymington Town.

McManus explained: "Carlo has decided to join Lymington where it is felt he will have a greater chance of playing."

Non-league Football

Andover plan for life without ex-Saint

NEIL Benson does not expect to see ex-Saints centre-back Lloyd Foot turning out for his newly-promoted Andover Town side this season.

The 6ft 2in 21-year-old was a defensive rock for Town in Sydenhams One last term and, with 18 goals scored in 35 Wessex starts, he was no slouch in the opposing penalty area either.

His influential presence will undoubtedly be missed as Town begin life as a Sydenhams Premier club at Blackfield & Langley today. But manager Neil Benson – who runs the Sparsholt



LLOYD FOOT, left

Academy programme in tandem with Andover Town – is looking at the bigger picture and believes Foot deserves his chance of climbing higher.

"Lloyd came back for me to help him and he was doing a coaching job at Sparsholt Academy," he explained.

"He was with me originally as an under-13, under-14 and under-15 at Dougland FC in the Southampton Tryo League along with Sam Vokes and Jamie White.

"I placed him with Saints when I was in and around the club and he went on to captain the scholars' side. He was at Saints for four seasons from under-15s through to under-18s.

"He's a class act and I hope he's able to find a suitable club and get the contract he deserves.

"He's been doing pre-season with Sutton United and up at Burton Albion and Lloyd's well capable of pushing on to the next level, as are a number of our boys. "The whole idea at Sparsholt is to bring through young talent and push it on to the next level – and that's why we don't want to bring Lloyd back here next season.

"If we lose players to League, Conference Premier and Conference South clubs, we accept that."

Another of Benson's Sparsholt graduates, Isaac Nehemie, recently signed a pro contract with Aston Villa. Originally on Crystal Palace's books, the 18-year-old left-sided player was part of Saints Academy but his full-time scholarship arrangement was due to expire this summer.

MONEYFIELDS

from page 11

I want us to win it, but I'm going to say Newport. They're a canny side who've got the best pick of Island players. And for the rest of us it's a right pain to get over there for a 7.30pm kick-off and then get back to the ferry!

My old club Winchester will have a big say and Moneyfields are always a dark horse.

I've got a lot of time for Moneyfields. They've got plenty of Pompey lads and it was Pompey lads who won the league for me at Worthing. They've got a great attitude.

The two promoted sides, Petersfield and Andover Town, will do well. I've been good friends with Andover's Neil Benson for a long time.

I went to see Andover play East Cowes last season. They were top at the time, but Petersfield had games in hand. Andover won 11-0 and I said to Neil that would do him no harm. The following day I looked in the paper and Petersfield had won 14-0!

Title tip: Newport IoW

RICHIE COXALL (CO-MANAGER) – FAWLEY AFC

Winchester City must be favourites I'd have thought.

They're going to be very strong on the basis that they've signed the majority of an Alresford side who were strong in their own right last season.

Realistically I'd be delighted if Fawley could finish halfway up the league.

Last year we were in the bottom three of the best part of the season. It went to the wire and Colin (Lane, former manager) did a good job keeping us up.

Most years it's been a bit of a struggle for us, but with the quality, size and age of the squad we've assembled we're hoping to avoid the dogfight this time.

We'd like to finish mid-table and be able to at least compete against sides who will undoubtedly finish above us rather than getting outplayed and losing by three or four.

It's about getting the best out of local lads complemented by a few from outside the geographical area who have had ties with us for a while.

We've got a good atmosphere here and, with one or two exceptions, we've consistently had 30-plus at training since we started on June 16. Fawley's all about local football for local lads.

Title tip: Winchester City

ADIE ARNOLD (MANAGER) – CHRISTCHURCH

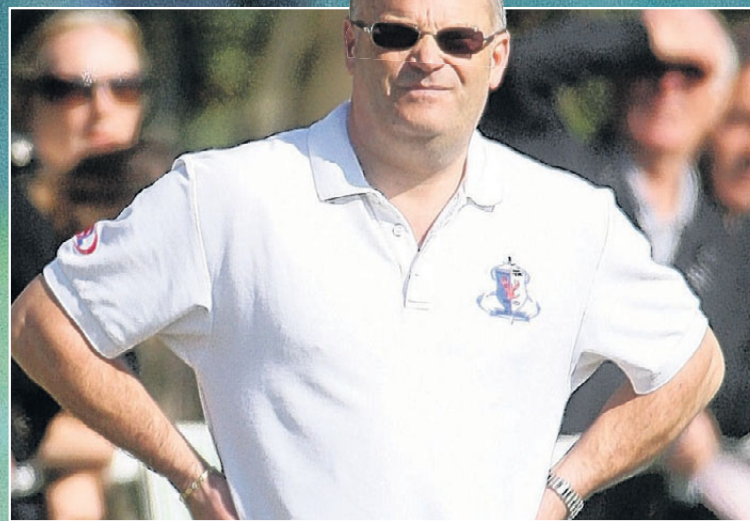
Winchester are going to be strong for three reasons.

Firstly the Alresford factor because Alresford were a very good side.

Secondly because of the quality players they've kept like Leigh Mills.

And thirdly because if they get as close as Alresford did last season (as SWL runners-up), they can bring in more players if they need to for a final push come Christmas-time.

Winchester are my clear favourites. After that you're looking at Portchester, Blackfield and, also, Follands who had a great season.



MID-TABLE TARGET: Fawley boss Richie Coxall.

Danny (Bowers) has done a tremendous job at Follands. He's assembled a good side and got a lot of firepower over there. They need to keep last season's momentum going.

Danny and I have had a couple of run-ins, but that's because we're both passionate managers and, come 3pm, we defend our own team.

Kempy (Graham Kemp) has got a good side at Hamworthy and Bemerton will be there or thereabouts.

The aim at Christchurch is to consolidate and get the club on an even keel.

It's my first season and we're not going to set the world alight, but we're looking to be competitive in mid-table to start with and then push on next year.

It's a fresh challenge for me. I'd taken

Verwood as far as I could and Christchurch are on my doorstep. I'd like to build something here over the next two or three seasons.

Title tip: Winchester City

KEN VAUGHAN (MANAGER) – BOURNEMOUTH POPPIES

I was going for Winchester originally but then Blackfield & Langley started spending a bit of money, to say the least.

But I'm going to stick



TYRO LEAGUE SCARE ARE THEY NOW? - SEE PAGES 32-33

Non-league Football

TIPPED TO SHOCK



QUALITY:
Winchester
City's Leigh
Mills.

Cole and Danny Robinson across from Alresford.

If Tim and Danny finish the season there, they will finish it with the trophy.

What the pair of them did at Alresford was unbelievable. They're the best management team by far.

They picked up a few pots there and now, with the financial clout of Winchester behind them, it's the magical ingredient.

I always enjoyed playing against Alresford, even though we got nothing out of them, and I thought Sholing were great for the league last year.

with Winchester because they've made the signing of the season for me in getting the management team of Tim

Follands were also one of the better sides. Anyone who can come to our place and play football has got to be good and Follands would be my dark horses.

They've got the ability to get in there and they might even nick it.

As for Poppies, we need a good start. If we can get five or six points from our first ten games, we'll have done better than last year!

We haven't got the money we had two or three seasons ago and we're going with youth lads now.

Our goal is mid-table, but anything 15th or above will be a bonus.

Title tip: Winchester City

NEIL BENSON (MANAGER) – ANDOVER TOWN

We're newcomers to the Premier Division, but I know the league is very competitive and I'm sure there are at least six to eight clubs who have proved over a period of years that they're capable of winning it.

Using a bit of insight into what clubs have got available to draw players in, I'd have thought Winchester would be most people's favourites.

I can only surmise but, from what I've seen in pre-season with the amount of players Winchester have signed on, they must have the resources to mount a good challenge.

We're looking for sustainability in our first season.

We've got reasonable depth to the squad, but the games are such that in our first six fixtures we're playing four of the clubs who have been top-six in the last few seasons.

I'm not one to make predictions, we'll let our football do the talking and see how we get on in a very competitive league.

There will be no easy games and we'll give total respect to everyone we play, whether they're up at the top or down at the bottom.

If we can put in a few good performances and get a few points on the board, we'll be happy.

Title tip: Winchester City.

DANNY BOWERS (MANAGER) – FOLLAND SPORTS

I could do an Alex Pike and state 'I'm not saying we're going to win it, but we'll be in the top one!', but I'm not stupid enough to say that!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Downton rebuilding

RELEGATED Downton are restructuring in preparation for life in Sydenhams Wessex One.

The Wiltshire club have a new chairman, Colin Stainer, who has already appointed ex-goalkeeper Colin Hopkins as manager following the sacking of his predecessor Jeff Softley.

Hopkins is being assisted by central midfielder Jack Brooks, Mitch Blake remains a club stalwart and former Salisbury City physio Kev Bushby will take care of the medical department.

Hopkins and Brooks have brought some new faces on board, signing Sam O'Hagan and Daniel Savage from local rivals Bemerton Heath Harlequins and ex-Andover New Street player Harry Burt.

Those three will be joining goalkeeper Charlie Aldridge, Ben Smith, Paul Gulliver, Craig Tyson, Dan Telfer, Declan McGregor (pictured above) and newly appointed captain Dan Newman, who have all re-signed.

Head groundsman Nick Illman has kept the pitch in pristine condition over the summer, new goalposts and dugouts are being installed, the barriers and stand are being repainted and the home and away changing rooms upgraded along with the referees' room.

Downton kick off the new season at home to Cowes Sports next Saturday.

Tune-ups

FA VASE winners Sholing round off their pre-season friendly campaign at Sussex County One side Arundel today after winning one and losing one this week.

Last Saturday Lewis Fennemore and Byron Mason were on target as the Boatmen triumphed 2-0 at Godalming Town.

On Wednesday they were defeated at the death as AFC Bournemouth's development squad edged a keenly contested friendly 3-2 at the Silverlake Arena.

After going two goals down to an Aristide Bassele penalty and a first-time shot by Jayden Stockley, Sholing fought back to square the game with a long-range Alex Baldacchino strike and a brave header by PJ McLean.

As the game entered stoppage time, Sam Matthews found space outside the box and fired a terrific curling shot beyond Matt Renouf to score with virtually the last kick of the game.

Sholing kick off the Southern One South & West campaign at Shortwood United next Saturday.

Wembley goal-scoring hero Marvin McLean has re-signed and the Boatmen have clinched the signature of former Totton & Eling frontrunner/full-back Jude Nwachukwu.

EMAIL TEAM PICTURES TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Non-league Football

Igoe can make the difference

MICK Jenkins believes AFC Portchester will benefit from Sammy Igoe's wealth of Football League experience.

The 38-year-old former Portsmouth and AFC Bournemouth midfielder, below, has joined the Sydenhams Premier outfit after parting company with Conference South neighbours Gosport Borough.

And director of football Jenkins is backing Igoe's professional know-how to bring the best out of a young Royals side.

"We've signed Sammy Igoe and we're really pleased," he said. "Sammy's got a wealth of experience having played over 500 Football League games.

"Hopefully his knowledge will really benefit the young group coming through."

Despite being instrumental in helping Gosport establish themselves as a Conference South side last season, Igoe left under a bit of a cloud in April, miffed at being left out of Alex Pike's matchday squad for the FA Trophy final at Wembley.

He joined Bognor Regis Town on loan, helping them to the Ryman Premier play-offs, and has now swapped places with ex-Saint Jake Thomson who has moved along the south coast from Portchester.

"Bognor have taken Jake off us and Sammy's come here," said Jenkins.

"Jake came in to reinforce what we had after Christmas and unfortunately it coincided with the bad weather we had so he didn't play much at first.

"He got fitter towards the end of the season and started to show his quality, but I understand his desire to play at a better level."

Portchester have also signed full-back Rob Evans from Moneyfields and were this week hoping to tie up ex-AFC Bournemouth Academy midfielder Elliot Ward from Bournemouth Poppies.

They are also running the rule over experienced Brazilian midfielder Carlos Geteski from Lymington Town who Jenkins remembers from his Havant & Waterlooville days.

Portchester have lost two powerhouse frontmen in Jamie Musselwhite (now Blackfield & Langley) and Nathan Lynch (now Sholing), but will bide their time until the right replacement comes along.



CLUBS WARY OF

from page 13

With Winchester's financial resources there's every chance they'll win it – and they've got a fantastic striker in Warren Bentley.

They've got to get their players to gel, but if they don't get it right first time they can go out and get whoever they want.

Blackfield have signed a few, but it's a whole new thing for John (Robson) down there and it'll take them time to gel.

My dark horse is Bemerton whose young lads have done really well, plus they've brought in (striker) Scott Joyce.

But if you ask me who I'd like to win it, apart from us, I'd say Portchester because of all the hard work they've done and the good people there.

Last year everyone was fighting for second or third. No one thought they had a chance of winning it (with Sholing in the league).

This year will be a lot more open. Five or six teams will think they've got a chance.

After finishing third last year, people will think it's a disaster if Follands don't do at least the same again.

We'd like to think we've got a chance of winning it, but it's so wide open that you could have a real good season and finish sixth.

Kempy (Graham Kemp) has been quiet down at Hamworthy, but I thought they were fantastic when we played them.

Also, Moneyfields have broken their policy and brought in players from Southampton, so they'll be strong.

Title tip: Winchester City

GRAHAM KEMP (MANAGER) –

HAMWORTHY UNITED

For me the unknown quantity from this far away is AFC Portchester because I don't hear too much about them.

Blackfield have signed so many that I'd be surprised if their squad is under 50 people!

It's going to be an interesting season, but the thing Winchester have got over the others is that the nucleus of their team have played together at Alresford.

I spoke to (ex-Alresford and now Winchester co-manager) Tim Cole last season and his exact words to me were: 'Do people not realise how long it takes to build a championship-winning side?'

From a selfish point of view, I asked our chairman what was Hamworthy's highest ever finish and most points gained. The answer was sixth with 75 points in 2005 and that's what I'd like to beat.



Having the club's most successful league season has to be the first target and then you push on from there.

We've built a good squad and we've had a bit of luck landing (central defender) Chris Dillon from Eastleigh.

Chris called me 'boss' the other day and I said I'm not sure I'm good enough for that with him having just won the Conference South!"

Title tip: Winchester City

JOHN PYATT (MANAGER) –

LYMINGTON TOWN

I don't think it'll be us!! I'd have thought you've got to be looking at Winchester, Blackfield

and Newport. Hamworthy have got a half-decent side too and Follands will probably be top five.

Winchester have spent a bit of money and brought some good players in from Alresford and they've got two good lads running them in Tim Cole and Danny Robinson.

Blackfield have also spent a bit and we've lost out on a couple of players to them because of the financial side of it.

Newport have signed some good players and Follands have got (striker) Ashley Jarvis back who's always going to be a threat.

It'll be tight but, if I have to pick one, I'll go for Blackfield. They won the league two years ago so they know how to do it and they've

still got the main man (Sam Davies) putting the money in. I reckon they'll just have the edge.

I'd like a top-eight finish in my first season back at Lymington, but we'll be happy anywhere in the top half. We won't set the league on fire because we're building again.

It's important we keep a nucleus of local lads because that's what Lymington's always been about. You get that bit extra from local players playing for their local club.

Title tip: Blackfield & Langley

CARL BENNETT (MANAGER) –

WHITCHURCH UNITED

I imagine Winchester will win it

NON-LEAGUE STORY TO TELL? CALL WENDY GEE ON

Non-league Football



NEWPORT THREAT



FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS:

Danny Robinson, left, and Tim Cole, right, during their time as part of Andy Leader's, centre, coaching team at Winchester City.

this year with the squad they've already got and Danny (Robinson) and Tim (Cole) bringing over the bulk of their players from Alresford.

Adding quality to quality is just going to make them even better.

We know Alresford were a very good side last season and so were Winchester, so they've got that winning formula straight away.

I can't see anyone other than them winning it – and that's no disrespect to any of the other teams.

We'd be happy with a mid-table finish at Whitchurch and then hopefully push on next season.

There are only four of last season's players left so it's pretty much a rebuilding job in my first season. I don't want to put too much pressure on the lads early doors, I want to let them settle in.

It's a different ball game up at Whitchurch. It feels good having a committee behind me getting things done.

Title tip: Winchester City

CARL POORE

(MANAGER) –
VERWOOD TOWN

Obviously Winchester are going

to be strong.

Also, Hamworthy United have signed some decent lads and I don't think they'll be too far away.

I'd take Winchester to win it with Hamworthy a surprise second, giving them a run for their money.

I've been out of the Wessex League for a couple of seasons so I don't know exactly what teams are around, only what I read in the papers.

I just think Winchester will do it because of the status of the club. They've won the Vase, they've got a nice set-up, good backing and two new managers who did a great job at Alresford.

I've heard Blackfield are spending a bit, but I've seen it all before

where the money dries up and you end up losing everyone, so it's hard to gauge how they'll do over the whole season.

When I came to Verwood towards the end of last season we were in a relegation dogfight. We stayed up and our goal now is to finish higher than 19th and keep pushing on.

Realistically, we're a non-paying club – one of the few around – so to finish above any club that pays is a big achievement.

We've lost some players, but the squad needed refreshing and we've got a good mix of lads from the league below and others who've played at a decent level.

Title tip: Winchester City

TIM COLE (CO-MANAGER) – WINCHESTER CITY

I'll go for Newport.

The manager (Steve Brougham) has been there a few years and he's got it sorted.

They've got the pick of the players on the Island and they've signed (defender) Scott Sampson who I rate.

They're hard to beat on the Island and, if they can get their away form sorted out, they'll do well.

I'd put Newport first, Portchester second and Moneyfields third with Blackfield, Follands and Hamworthy behind.

Dave (Malone, Winchester director of football) hasn't put any pressure on Danny Robinson and myself, but he'd like us to get up to the next league and that's what we're aiming for.

We were runners-up twice with Alresford and we'd love to have a good go.

It's going to be hard because there are some good teams out there, but I'm looking forward to it.

I was at Winchester with the under-18s a few years back and I've always had a big affection for the club.

I've known Dave (Malone) a long time so I know what he's like. He doesn't hide anything, he says his bit – and he's got every right to. He and (chairman) Paul Murray put money into the club and they're not going to sit and do nothing, are they?

The hardest part of pre-season has been amalgamating the two teams (Winchester and Alresford) and the biggest 'problem' is that they're all good players.

They're all fighting for their places and they all seem keen. Winchester's a big club and there are not many other places they can go and play a high standard of football.

Title tip: Newport IOW

Continued on page 16

Kemp's shock reunion

HAMWORTHY United boss Graham Kemp admits it's been a "massive surprise" to him to have landed a player of Chris Dillon's calibre.

He and the centre-half know each other well from their days together at Christchurch.

But when Dillon signed for Eastleigh last season, via stints in America and Australia, there was no way Kemp expected to be reunited with him in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

"It's a massive surprise to me because Chris is a Conference South winner," he said.

"He was disappointed to be released by Eastleigh, but he's got over it now and he realises he can't go on chasing a dream forever.

"The money's good in the Conference Premier and Conference South, but it's not enough to retire on and Chris is in the process of trying to join the fire brigade.

"If he manages to get on the training course, he knows he can't just disappear for half a day to go and play football.

"He would like to be playing higher but, at his time of life, career comes first and this is a great coup for us.

"I'd never stand in his way if someone higher came in for him, but Chris lives about a mile from our ground and I'd be surprised if he left us for another Wessex club."

It was Kemp who gave Dillon his break into senior football as a teenager at Christchurch – and one game in particular stands out.

"We played Sholing when Chris was 17 and he went toe-to-toe with (ex-Bashley and Salisbury) targetman Paul Sales, which is no mean feat," he recalled.

"Chris is a bit of an old-fashioned centre-half and he came off with an equal share of the spoils that day.

"I'm surprised Eastleigh didn't keep hold of him, but I'm over the moon to have got him"

Dillon is one of five new recruits at the Country Ground, joining ex-Christchurch central midfielder Dan Blackburn, former Wimborne Town centre-half Liam Donachy, ex-AFC Totton and Poole winger Tom Price and Wessex hotshot Martin Warren on the Hammers books.

Warren bagged 19 league goals across spells with Bournemouth Poppies and Blackfield & Langley last season and Kemp's protracted pursuit of the striker has finally paid off.



KEMP

Double swoop

KEN Vaughan is confident of kicking off his Bournemouth Poppies rebuild with the capture of Christchurch duo Marc Fairbrother and Connor Doe.

The Poppies manager was close to signing the pair this week and also revealed he was in preliminary talks with ex-Priory boss Michael Cuffie over the vacant assistant's post at Victoria Park.

Midfielder Fairbrother, who made 37 Sydenhams League appearances for Christchurch last season, has not been listed as a registered player at Hurn Bridge for the forthcoming campaign – unlike highly-rated full-back Doe.

Vaughan said earlier this week: "We're pretty confident of getting them and we're just awaiting clearance on Connor's paperwork."

"A few players have gone out again this summer, but these two should fill the gaps quite nicely."

"There is still a long way to go and I want to add another four or five players."

Poppies have lost the services of Jake Rowley and defensive linchpin Richard Jackson to ambitious Premier Division rivals Blackfield & Langley.

Their artillery has been further depleted by university students Luke Ingram, Scott Costello and Gareth Evans leaving the area, while Elliot Ward is expected to join AFC Portchester.

New Christchurch boss Adie Arnold, meanwhile, admitted he had been "taken by surprise" by the likely departure of Fairbrother and Doe.

"I would have liked to keep both lads and it came a little bit out of the blue because I wouldn't have expected the merry-go-round to start before we had kicked a ball," he confessed. "That said, I wish them good luck."

The positive for Priory is that they have finally completed the signing of striker Jack Lovell from Arnold's former charges Verwood.

"We had to be patient, but we were always confident of getting Jack," said the boss. "He is very raw with a lot to learn, but we feel he is the sort we can improve."

Christchurch have also signed Sonny Wilkinson, a midfielder from Holt United.

Pompey sign Scott

FORMER Saints goalkeeper Scott Bevan is on the move.

The Southampton-born 34-year-old has left Conference South outfit Havant & Waterlooville to take up the new role of goalkeeping coach at Division Two outfit Portsmouth.

Bevan was a part-time academy coach at Fratton Park and has now become a permanent addition to Andy Awford's backroom staff.

The 6ft 7in stopper made 29 appearances for the Hawks last season having previously played for Saints, Bristol Rovers and Torquay.

Experienced keeper Ryan Young, signed in May from AFC Telford, will be H&W's No1 for 2014/15, backed by 18-year-old teenage protege Charlie Searle.

Non-league Football

MILLERS BOOSTED

From page 15

MILES RUTHERFORD (MANAGER) – MONEYFIELDS

It's out of Newport IoW and Winchester City.

Newport have made a couple of decent signings and they're always strong to start with. It's whether they can continue it.

They tend to fade away at Christmas, but they've added a few players so it might be different this time.

Winchester have got half their own players and half of Alresford's from last season, so they'll be strong.

Blackfield have signed a few, but I don't think they'll win it. It will be one of the other two.

We'll be hard to beat again. On our day, with our strongest 11, we can give anyone a game, but we just haven't got the finances and squad to compete with the top couple every year. It's a shame, but it's something we have to put up with.

For our first game (home to Alresford today), we've got four out through suspension and unavailability. It happens every year and it's disruptive.

We've signed a couple of Southampton players, Dougie Rowe and Adam Lowther from Totton & Eling, to freshen things up. Last year another Southampton lad Stuart Green did very well for us and he's gone to Gosport. We wish him all the best.

Title tip: Newport IoW

STEVE BROUGHAM

(MANAGER) – NEWPORT IoW

Winchester – because they've got the resources to win it.

Financially they look as if they are going to be OK and they've got a good squad with the players and management team they've added.

Winchester will be the side to beat, but there are some strong teams in it this year and it's going to be close between six or seven at the top. I don't think anyone will run away with it.

Portchester and Hamworthy look good, Blackfield have signed a few and Follands did well last year.

I always go into a season aiming for top-six, but where we finished fourth last year I'd like to try and improve.

I'm not one for shouting my mouth off and I know it's going to be difficult, but our aim is to finish higher than before.

There's no point if you're not going to try and better yourself and the players have got to think like that as well.

We put in for promotion last season and we probably will again.

Mind you, it's OK saying that, but when it actually comes along it's a massive financial thing going into the league above.

If we got ourselves into that position, we could do with a bit more finance.



MONEYFIELDS MOVE: Adam Lowther, left.



Title tip: Winchester City

DAVE CARTER (MANAGER) – HORNDEAN

It's got to be Winchester or Blackfield.

Why? Because rumour has it they've got loads of money.

I'll take

Winchester to win it, provided they don't sack their managers after two weeks like they usually do!

We've done well in the transfer market this summer on zero budget and I'd like to think we could get into the top ten.

(Ex-Havant goalkeeper) Lyall Beasely has signed having just come back from two years in Australia and we've got Ellis Martin, an ex-Portsmouth player who's either a centre-half or left-back.

Striker Gary Austin has come back to us from Fareham and we've got right-back Jack McFarlane from Godalming and another ex-Pompey lad Lewis Stockford.

We've also had (ex-Portsmouth striker/winger) Ashley Harris training with us, but he's not signed yet.

We've brought two new coaches in too, including Mat Jones who's just hung his boots up at Fareham.

Title tip: Winchester City

JEREMY (CO-MANAGER) – ALRESFORD

If I had to pick Porchester.

They've got a bit of very professional team.

I saw them play Stour and it was very much fringe players, but the

SILVERLAKE STADIUM NOT FAR OFF FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Non-league Football

BY TESSEM COUP



EXPERIENCE:
Sam Carter,
right of picture,
has signed for
Alesford.



**MAIN
SIGNING:**
Bemerton
have
brought in
Scott
Joyce, left.



BOOST:
Ex-Saint Jo
Tesssem is
back with
Totton &
Elting.

The majority of last season's Alesford players left and we've lost the reserves and have no youth side.

It's been a big rebuilding job for myself and (co-boss) Martin Beck and it won't happen overnight but, slowly but surely we're getting there and seeing a light at the end of the tunnel.

I'm pleased with the squad we've amassed. We're a young team, but there's plenty of quality there and the real benefits will probably come next season.

It's difficult as a non-budget club, but we've got a good, young footballing side with a great attitude and we could surprise one or two.

Simon Everett has stayed on as captain and we've brought in Sam Carter from Bemerton for his experience.

We'll go in with the mentality of trying to win every game and see where it takes us.

Whatever happens, the boys will gain experience this season which will stand

them in good stead next year.

We've had some bad luck with injuries, particularly to strikers, but we're starting to get people back now and get competition for places.

I'm particularly pleased with midfield where we've got six or seven lads fighting for places and it's going to be difficult to choose.

Title tip: AFC Portchester

ANDY HARDWICK (SECRETARY) – BEMERTON HEATH

It won't be us this year. We could struggle to start with.

The nucleus of last season's side have stayed, but at the moment we've only got 14 signed on.

One of those, Jack Slade, has a three-match ban and another is Chalky (manag-

er Ian Chalk) so, really, we're down to 12.

We've lost (frontman) Joe Sanger, who's decided not to play and, in any case, he would have started with a six-match ban.

All our reserves from last year have gone, but a lot weren't good enough anyway.

Our only significant signing so far is (former Brockenhurst/Bashley striker) Scott Joyce.

Chalky's got a lot of young lads to sort out and, given two or three months, we could start picking up a bit.

Blackfield have taken a couple of ours (Danny Young and Kane O'Keefe) and I fancy them to win it.

They seem able to attract players and, if they get off to a good start, I'd imagine they'd keep on going.

I quite like Newport too and everyone's talking about Winchester being favourites, but it's whether they've got enough power to get over the line.

Title tip: Blackfield & Langley

WAYNE MEW (MANAGER) – TOTTON & ELING

It's got to be Winchester City.

The basis of their squad has been there or thereabouts for the last couple of seasons, so I don't see why this one will be any different.

Survival's our goal because we've got a brand new squad.

I thought a lot of the T&E old boys would come back but, apart from Matt Monk and Jamie Feasey, none of them have, so it's all new players.

Because I was appointed late we've only had two friendlies, so the first month of the campaign is going to be like a pre-season for us.

The good news is that we've got (ex-Saint) Jo Tesssem back on the coaching side, which is quite a coup.

Jo's signed on as a player as well in case we need him and he gives us a possible link with Totton College too.

A couple of lads that were with me at Romsey, Richard Hayter and Ross Gregory, have come across and I'll be trying to do the same here as I did there.

The time had come for T&E to change direction a bit. They'd had the same players since they got promoted and it had run its course. I like a challenge and I've certainly got one at T&E, but I'd rather be (Winchester's) Tim Cole to be fair!

Title tip: Winchester City

Stags look Stateside

AFC TOTTON have drafted in an American recruit for the forthcoming Southern Division One South & West campaign.

Kyle O'Brien was introduced to the Testwood Stadium club by fellow midfielder Liam Gilbert who met him while playing college football in California.

"Kyle's an attacking midfielder who reminds me a lot of one of our former players James Coutts," said manager Steve Riley.

"He's a good lad who's well up to playing at this level and he's very level-headed too.

"We've got international clearance for him and he's going to be a good addition to the squad."

O'Brien was on target, along with Joe Maxwell and Taylor Edwards, in Totton's 3-2 pre-season friendly win at Folland Sports.

That match should have been followed by home warm-ups against Slough Town and AFC Bournemouth, but both had to be cancelled because a problem with the Testwood Stadium water pump stalled work on the pitch.

The Stags were confident today's home friendly against Dorchester Town would get the go-ahead as the clock ticks down towards next Saturday's (August 9) South & West opener at Clevedon Town.

They are due to visit league newcomers Wantage Town,

the Hellenic champions,

the following Tuesday (August 12)

before opening their home campaign against Yate

Town on Saturday week

(August 16).

"The water pump went and the work wasn't completed in time to play Bournemouth," said Riley.

"We couldn't play them here if the pitch wasn't absolutely right because they would never have wanted to come back again, but there won't be a problem for the new season."

Totton opted for more training instead this week with Riley reporting: "We've had good numbers turning up. Last Saturday we had 24 in training, so we've got a bit of depth to the squad."

Striker Craig Feeney apart, the Stags have made no major new signings, but Riley said: "We've got tried and trusted lads from last season who deserve another go."

"If we can start off as we finished with a bit of confidence, we should be fine. It's a big test for our young lads to see what they learned last season."

One player who won't be featuring immediately is dual-signed Fawley AFC midfielder Lewis Ross, who broke a foot bone while on holiday.

"Lewis has broken a metatarsal exactly as he did against Bideford last season, but in the other foot. He'll be out for a while," Riley confirmed.

Brockenhurst this week confirmed that defender Jamie Blackburn had left them to sign for Totton.



RILEY

**Y STAGG
(NAGER) –
DOR TOWN**

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ey looked strong.

UE STANDARD, SAYS CLUB OWNER – SEE BACK PAGE

THE 2014-15 Championship

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Club focus

Key role for Donaldson

CLAYTON Donaldson cannot wait to get going after his summer move to St Andrews.



The tall forward was a wanted man after helping Brentford win promotion to the second tier, eventually opting to join the Blues.

The 30-year-old is looking forward to pulling the shirt on for competitive games.

"I can't wait. Everyone is looking forward to the first game and I am no different," he said.

"I am raring to go at Middlesbrough, which is a ground I've not played at and something to look forward to."

Pre-season has been about more than fitness at the Midlands club, with the completely revamped squad needing the time to get to know each other.

Manager Lee Clark reckons Donaldson is key to his side's hopes of success this season.

"He has power, he has pace, he's good in the air and he can play out wide," he said.

"But I have told him he is going to play through the middle most of the time."

Hogan's top tier dream

SCOTT Hogan hopes he has joined a club with whom he can play Premier League football.



The 22-year-old moved to Brentford after helping Rochdale win promotion to League One.

The Bees won the League One play-offs last term, and Hogan believes he has joined a club capable of stepping up to the top tier.

"My aim is to play in the Premier League and through speaking to people I can see that being here with Brentford," he said.

"They are giving me the platform to do my thing and I see myself in the Premier League with Brentford in two years."

Lars aiming to become a Dutch master

by Dominic Picksley

NOTTINGHAM FOREST have had some notable Dutch strikers in the past and boss Stuart Pearce could well have picked up another Netherlands gem in Lars Veldwijk to add to former legends.

The Forest boss played with Pierre van Hooijdonk and Bryan Roy in his time as a player at the City Ground, and his £1million capture from Excelsior looks already like money well spent.

Veldwijk, 22, scored 35 goals for the Eerste Divisie side last season after previously scoring 19 in a season's loan with FC Dordrecht, and after signing a three-year deal with the Reds, he is naturally looking to establish himself on his first move away from his native Holland.

He looked impressive in his first friendly appearance against Ilkeston, before finding the net against Porto B.

"I like how they play football in England," Veldwijk told the official website.

"I think the style is good for me, but it's different to what it's like in Holland, so I need to settle down. I don't know how long that will take, but if I can do it quickly I hope to get my

Veldwijk latest Holland ace to join Forest ranks

place in the first 11 and go on to play a lot of minutes in my first year. I need to be better, but it's pre-season so I will train hard."

Pearce and coach Brian Eastick earmarked his signing back in May, although Eastick has urged caution amongst an expectant home faithful.

"He's probably not one to come into the team straight away and hit the ground running, but we do certainly see him breaking into the first



I hope to get my place in the first 11 and go on to play a lot of minutes in my first year

- Lars Veldwijk

team squad once he gets settled in," he said. One player Pearce will be delighted to see back in the fold is Andy Reid.

When the Irishman's season finished with injury in March, his absence hit Forest hard.

The captain and talisman of the side, and the player who is the creative hub, Reid's goalscoring abilities were also missed as the City Ground outfit's play-off bid ended in a whimper under caretaker-boss Gary Brazil.

Pearce is returning for a second stint as manager after being in charge on a temporary basis between December 1996 and May 1997.

'Psycho' holds legendary status at the City Ground after playing more than 400 times for Forest between 1985 and 1997.

He has plenty of experience under his belt as Manchester City boss and head of the England Under-21s, as well as coaching the Great Britain Olympic squad.

It could, of course, end in tears and Pearce may not be able to bring the good times back to Forest, but they could not have found a man so up for the task and every Reds fan will be willing him to succeed where many others have failed.



Pearce has high hopes for Lars Veldwijk, inset right



McClaren hails Christie deal

by Chris Miller

DERBY boss Steve McClaren is keeping faith with the club's policy of investing in youth with the capture of highly-rated defender Cyrus Christie.

The Rams came agonisingly close to promotion last season, losing to a late Bobby Zamora goal against QPR in the play-off final, despite dominating the majority of the match.

But if their younger players continue their development, it won't be long before McClaren is managing in the Premier League again and he believes Christie can help his team get there.

Christie was out of contract with Coventry and the Rams have beaten strong competition to secure his signature.

The 21-year-old right-back has put pen to paper on a three-year deal.

"Right-back has been a focus for us this summer and we are delighted to have

secured the services of Cyrus, who is a very highly-rated prospect," McClaren told the club's official website.

"We have been monitoring Cyrus for some time and, while there has been a great deal of competition for his signature, we are delighted that he has chosen Derby County for this key stage of his career.

"Our head of football operations Chris Evans and his recruitment team deserve a lot of credit for closing this deal amidst much pressure. We have signed some very good players this summer and Cyrus is another excellent capture."

Christie, who joined Coventry aged eight, made his debut for the Sky Blues as a substitute in the Capital One Cup against Morecambe in August 2010. He made 116 appearances.

Chris Martin took most of the plaudits with 25 goals last season, but Will Hughes was the real star of the Rams, proving a midfield dynamo... and is still only 19. The

Weybridge-born teenager has a big future in football and earlier this summer penned a new four-year deal with County.

He has previously been linked with Liverpool and, if he keeps improving like he has done over the past two seasons, then a big-money move to the Premier League will surely happen.

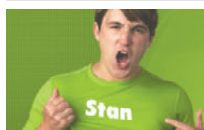
Despite being still maligned in some quarters for his 'wally with the broolly' period with England, and his 'Dutch accent' saga while with Twente, McClaren showed just what an excellent coach he is by just failing to lead the Rams into the Premier League last term.

There were a few raised eyebrows when he was appointed Derby boss in September after disappointing spells at German side Wolfsburg and Nottingham Forest, but McClaren nearly succeeded.

He lost just nine of his 40 games in charge and won 24, as he guided the Rams to third spot.



Cyrus Christie



CARDIFF CITY: 7/1*



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Mark Clemmit



Exclusive verdict from the presenter of BBC's Football League Show

Why Solskjaer can soar with the Bluebirds

WHEN looking for challengers in the Championship this season, you have to start with the three teams who have come down: Cardiff, Norwich and Fulham.

Cardiff were doing great last year prior to changing their manager and, with all due respect to Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, that now looks a daft decision.

Malky Mackay is really a top-drawer manager and could well have kept them up, and you have to say his clash with the owner cost them their top flight status.

They have lost a couple of key players in defender Steven Caulker and forward Fraizer Campbell, but are definitely going to be pushing for an immediate return to the Premier League.

Fulham have spent big on Ross McCormack, at an eye-watering £11million price tag, and will be right up there too, along with Norwich.

The loss of Robert Snodgrass to Hull is a blow for them, but if they keep the rest of their best players, such as Gary Hooper, they will be right up there.

There are a lot of others like Nottingham Forest and Blackburn who will look to be knocking on the door, but Derby look to have the best chance outside of the three relegated sides.

Steve McClaren has done a brilliant job since he took over at Pride Park, and in midfielder Will Hughes they have one of the most talented young players outside the Football League.

Brighton would have been right up there, too, but the departure of Leonardo Ulloa to Leicester is going to hit them hard.

What has gone on at Blackpool this summer has been remarkable, with shareholder Valeri Belokon and chairman Karl Oyston at each others' throats and their squad down to its bare bones.

It has left them to pick up the pieces, and it is no surprise they are favourites with the bookmakers to go down. If anything, it shows what a great



My tips to go up

Championship: Cardiff, Fulham, Derby

League One: Sheffield United, Bristol City, Preston North End

League Two: Portsmouth, Bury, Luton, Shrewsbury

job Ian Holloway did there, when he got them to the Premier League on limited resources. Birmingham have also been unsettled by their ownership issues, which do not look like being resolved soon.

Of the three promoted teams, Rotherham look most at risk, but I fancy Brentford to do well. I have spoken to their manager, Mark Warburton, this summer and he is confident.

He is leaving no stone unturned, and his transfer business has been brilliant.

Moses Odubajo, who scored plenty of goals for Leyton Orient last season, looks a particularly good capture.

And Wolves, who won the League One title, are my dark horses for the season.

They have a lot of momentum behind them, and Kenny Jackett did a tremendous

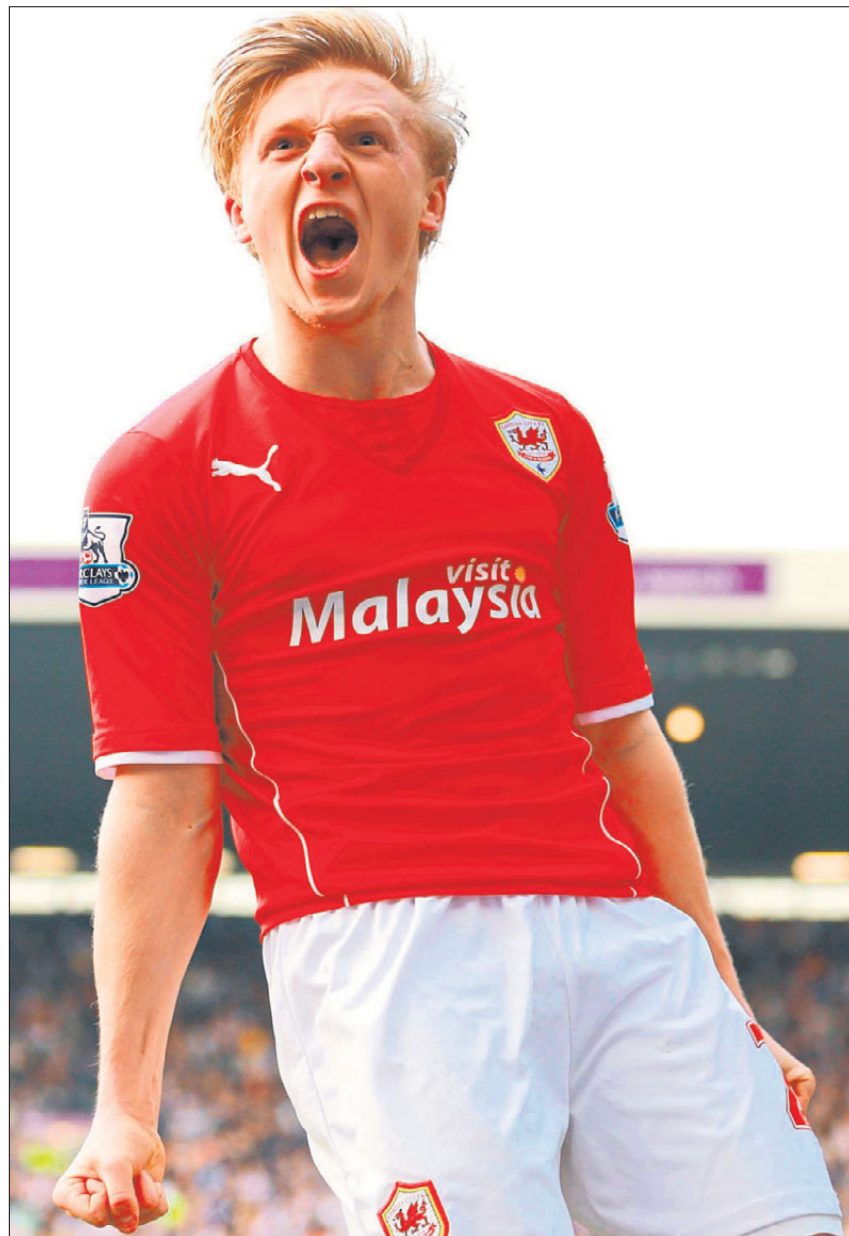
job last term. He showed he was not afraid to make the tough decisions – such as not bringing Jamie O'Hara back into the side – and, with the addition of Tommy Rowe to their squad, they could sneak into the play-offs.

Millwall may have made one of the most astute signings of the summer in Lee Gregory, who has joined from FC Halifax in the Conference.

He has finally given up his part-time job as an electrician, and I would not be surprised if he has a really good season and gets a few goals, although they will probably find themselves battling to stay up.

Fans of Leeds may have to wait a little while longer before they are challenging again, after their takeover by Italian businessman Massimo Cellino, after the Football League found they could not stop him from purchasing the club.

The appointment of Dave Hockaday as boss was a surprising one, but Cellino did his homework before making the appointment. He is a well respected manager in the game, but Cellino has a history of hiring and firing and is sure to want to make his mark. Nigel Clough has made some astute



Cardiff could see more scenes of celebration like this, after a Mats Daehli goal last season, while Will Hughes (left) is one of the hottest properties in the League

signings at Sheffield United and they will certainly be there or thereabouts in League One, but the loss of Harry Maguire – a local lad and man mountain – to Hull will be a real blow.

I imagine Bristol City, where Steve Cotterill has done a great job, will be challenging, too.

The same for Preston, who went close last season, and Gary Johnson enjoyed his taste of the Championship last season and will be desperate to lead Yeovil back there at the first time of asking.

The teams likely to struggle are those operating on limited resources, such as Colchester, Rochdale and Crewe.

Crewe do a great job in bringing players through, but whenever they lose a player like Nick Powell, who went to

Manchester United last summer, or Max Clayton, who moved on this year, it is really hard to keep replacing them.

Everything looks to be coming together for Portsmouth in League Two, where they have a real club man in charge with Andy Awford.

Bury will also go close. I have been so impressed with David Flitcroft as a manager, while Luton have some momentum too following their promotion.

At the bottom, you have to imagine the usual suspects will be down there, like Morecambe and Accrington. All it takes is one season where they leave themselves too much to do, and they are out of the League.

Mark was talking to Luke Thornhill



Wolves, who won the League One title, are my dark horses for the season. They have a lot of momentum behind them



PRESTON NORTH END: 8/1*



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Club-by-club verdict

BIRMINGHAM CITY

MANAGER: Lee Clark
POSITION LAST SEASON: 21st
GROUND: St Andrew's (30,016)
NICKNAME: Blues
KEY MAN: Clayton Donaldson

TRANSFERS

IN: J Grounds, G Hall (loan), S Gleeson, W Thomas, D Edgar, G Gunning, M Duffy, D Cotterill, C Donaldson, N Nasserri

OUT: D Ambrose, P Lovenkrands, B Howard, N Zigic, C Burke, A Asante, R Hales, H Mullins, W Elliott, L Maher, A Martin, A Bell (loan)

CHANCES

Birmingham avoided relegation by the slenderest of margins, prompting a wholesale clear-out. Should key new signings Clayton Donaldson (right) fail to fire, fans will not waste time in heaping pressure on boss Lee Clark.



BOURNEMOUTH

MANAGER: Eddie Howe
POSITION LAST SEASON: 10th
GROUND: Dean Court (10,783)
NICKNAME: The Cherries
KEY MAN: Euan O'Kane


TRANSFERS

IN: D Gosling, J Stanislas, C Wilson

OUT: S Jalal, M Tubbs (loan), L Grabban, M Coulibaly (loan), R Allsop (loan)

CHANCES

Having threatened a play-off spot last season this young and talented group will look to improve on a campaign to remember. A lot will depend on Callum Wilson's (right) ability to step into the shoes of Lewis Grabban.



CHARLTON ATHLETIC

MANAGER: Bob Peeters
POSITION LAST SEASON: 18th
GROUND: The Valley (27,111)
NICKNAME: The Addicks
KEY MAN: Johnnie Jackson


TRANSFERS

IN: Z Ansah, K Cumberbatch, Y Buyens (loan), I Vetokele, F Moussa, A Bikey, T Haim, J Berg Gudmundsson, G Tucudean, S Henderson

OUT: L Cort, C Evina, M Gower, A Hughes, B Hamer, D Dervite, K Feely, D Hollands, R Wood, A Azeez, D Green, D Poyet, J Cook, B Pritchard

CHANCES

Narrowly avoided the drop last season and then promptly binned the manager who saved them, while many of their better players have also departed. New manager Bob Peeters (right) has a big job on his hands to keep Charlton up.



BLACKBURN ROVERS

MANAGER: Gary Bowyer
POSITION LAST SEASON: 8th
GROUND: Ewood Park (31,367)
NICKNAME: Rovers
KEY MAN: Jordan Rhodes


TRANSFERS

IN: C Brown, L Varney, A Baptiste (loan)

OUT: R Edwards, H Molina, T Payne, D Pero, A Tumwa, M Urwin, DJ Campbell, D Etuhu, A Judge, D Goodwillie, J Morris (loan), A Marrow

CHANCES

Gary Bowyer's men ended last season with a goal glut and only narrowly missed out on the play-offs. The free-scoring Jordan Rhodes (right) has since signed a new deal and expectation will be high at Ewood Park.



BRENTFORD

MANAGER: Mark Warburton
POSITION LAST SEASON: 2nd (L1)
GROUND: Griffin Park (12,300)
NICKNAME: The Bees
KEY MAN: Alan Judge


TRANSFERS

IN: A Judge, M Tebar, A Gray, M Odubajo, S Hogan, A Pritchard (loan)

OUT: S Barron, S Logan, A Pierre, L O'Brien, C Donaldson, S Beale, L Norris, F El Alagui, W Grigg (loan)

CHANCES

The Bees are back in the second tier for the first time in 21 years and having kept the bulk of their squad together, they should have little to fear. Former Luton hotshot Andre Gray (right) is an exciting acquisition, too.



DERBY COUNTY

MANAGER: Steve McClaren
POSITION LAST SEASON: 3rd
GROUND: iPro Stadium (33,597)
NICKNAME: The Rams
KEY MAN: Chris Martin


TRANSFERS

IN: A Bunjaku, J Mitchell, Z Whitbread, A Santos, C Christie, G Thorne, J Mitchell, I Calero

OUT: R Atkins, V Gjokaj, M Hoganson, C Ball, J Bailey, A Legzdins, J O'Connor, B Davies, J Lelan (loan)

CHANCES

After play-off final heartache last season, promotion will be the aim this time around for boss Steve McClaren. George Thorne (right) was a key part in what Derby achieved in 2013/14 and his return on a permanent deal is good news.



BLACKPOOL

MANAGER: Jose Riga
POSITION LAST SEASON: 20th
GROUND: Bloomfield Road (17,338)
NICKNAME: The Seasideers
KEY MAN: David Perkins


TRANSFERS

IN: S Senjov, T McMahon, J Mellis, T Cywka, P Clarke, N Delfouneso

OUT: B Ferguson, M Chopra, R Earnshaw, E Grandin, F Haroun, N Tyson, K Broadfoot, N Bishop, C Cathcart, M Gilks, T Ince, R Fuller

CHANCES

Jose Riga (right) arrived at Bloomfield Road knowing he had just six professional players and piecing a squad together, let alone building a team which can avoid a relegationscrap, has proved increasingly difficult.



BRIGHTON

MANAGER: Sami Hyypia
POSITION LAST SEASON: 6th
GROUND: The Amex Stadium (30,250)
NICKNAME: The Seagulls
KEY MAN: Will Buckley


TRANSFERS

IN: N Toko, A Hughes, C O'Grady, D Stockdale

OUT: P Brezovan, W Hoskins, T Kuszczak, A Orlandi, D Lopez, D Rodriguez, M Upson, B Dickenson, L Ulloa

CHANCES

Sami Hyypia (right) faces a tough challenge on his managerial debut in England. The Seagulls have reached the play-offs in each of the last two seasons, but a top-six finish this time around looks too big an ask.



FULHAM

MANAGER: Felix Magath
POSITION LAST SEASON: 19th (PL)
GROUND: Craven Cottage (25,700)
NICKNAME: The Cottagers
KEY MAN: Ross McCormack


TRANSFERS

IN: S Hutchinson, A Taggart, T Hoogland, K Voser, R McCormack, T Eisfeld, A Chih, K Stafylidis (loan)

OUT: D Duff, G Karagounis, M Diarra, J Arne Riise, M Briggs, B Hangeland, J Heitinga, S Sidwell, S Riether, P Kasami, K Richardson

CHANCES

Felix Magath has cleared out last year's under-performers and has gambled £11million on Ross McCormack (right) repeating last season's goalscoring exploits. If he comes close, Fulham will be right up there.



BOLTON WANDERERS

MANAGER: Dougie Freedman
POSITION LAST SEASON: 14th
GROUND: The Macron Stadium (28,723)
NICKNAME: The Trotters
KEY MAN: Jermaine Beckford


TRANSFERS

IN: N Danns, L Trotter, L Feeney, A Robinson, D Dervite, R Fitzsimons, D Moxey, A Hughes, K McNaughton (loan)

OUT: Z Knight, C Eagles, T Mears, J Lynch, A Moritz, A Lee-Barrett, M Sordell, A Baptiste (loan)

CHANCES

Bolton have cleared the decks and tightened the purse strings as they cope with life in the second tier. Many supporters remain unconvinced by boss Dougie Freedman (right), who may need to utilise the loan market.



CARDIFF CITY

MANAGER: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer
POSITION LAST SEASON: 20th (PL)
GROUND: Cardiff City Stadium (33,338)
NICKNAME: Bluebirds
KEY MAN: Jordon Mutch


TRANSFERS

IN: J Guerra, F Burgstaller, G Macheda, A Le Fondre, K Dikgacoi, C Horton

OUT: T Smith, S Lappin, L Coulson, R Hawkins, A Taylor, D Cowie, Kevin McNaughton (loan), F Campbell, S Caulker

CHANCES

The goals should flow freely for the title favourites with new signings Javi Guerra, Adam Le Fondre (right) and Federico Macheda on board. Stand a good chance of an immediate return to the top flight.



HUDDERSFIELD TOWN

MANAGER: Mark Robins
POSITION LAST SEASON: 17th
GROUND: John Smith's Stadium (24,500)
NICKNAME: The Terriers
KEY MAN: Nahki Wells


TRANSFERS

IN: J Murphy, L Peltier, R Majewski (loan)

OUT: P Clarke, I Bennett, C Atkinson, A Robinson, C Lopez, P Mullin, K Southern, C Woods

CHANCES

Huddersfield have maintained steady improvement since winning promotion in 2012, but fans' expectations are that Town should make a bigger impact this time around with Nahki Wells (right) and James Vaughan up front.



Wes Morgan and Anthony Knockaert lift the Championship trophy following stellar campaigns for Leicester City last season



LUTON TOWN: 7/1*



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IPSWICH TOWN


MANAGER: Mick McCarthy
POSITION LAST SEASON: 9th
GROUND: Portman Road (30,311)
NICKNAME: The Tractor Boys
KEY MAN: David McGoldrick

TRANSFERS

IN: C Stewart, A Henshall, J Parr, B Bialkowski, S Hunt
OUT: S Ebanks-Blake, D October, M Timlin, J Leddy, T Winter, J Adekunle, C Edwards, S Loach, Aaron Cresswell, F Veseli (loan)

CHANCES

Ipswich surprised many last season by sustaining a play-off challenge and, although star performer Aaron Cresswell has moved on to West Ham, boss Mick McCarthy (right) expects his side to challenge at the top end of the table again.



NORWICH CITY


MANAGER: Neil Adams
POSITION LAST SEASON: 18th (PL)
GROUND: Carrow Road (27,224)
NICKNAME: The Canaries
KEY MAN: Lewis Grabban

TRANSFERS

IN: L Grabban, K Lafferty
OUT: D Fox, C Nash, R Young, R Snodgrass

CHANCES

Neil Adams will be expected to mount a promotion push in his first full season in charge. Summer signings Lewis Grabban (right) and Kyle Lafferty will be counted on to avoid a repeat of last season's scoring woes.



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

MANAGER: Stuart Gray
POSITION LAST SEASON: 16th
GROUND: Hillsborough (39,812)
NICKNAME: The Owls
KEY MAN: Sam Hutchinson

TRANSFERS

IN: M Young, E Sanders, P McElroy, K Westwood, S Hutchinson, R Croasdale
OUT: J Johnson, M Llera, A Jameson, A Gardner, M Taylor, D Prutton, D Mayor, A Davies, T McKenzie, R Johnson, O Onyewu

CHANCES

Sheffield Wednesday begin a new era under owner Hafiz Mammadov, while manager Stuart Gray (right) has earned his chance to take charge for his first full season. A change of ownership has brought with it an air of optimism.



LEEDS UNITED


MANAGER: Dave Hockaday
POSITION LAST SEASON: 15th
GROUND: Elland Road (37,697)
NICKNAME: The Whites
KEY MAN: Sam Byram

TRANSFERS

IN: S Taylor, M Silvestri, T Bianchi, S Doukara (loan), G Berardi
OUT: M Brown, E Diouf, J Ashdown, A Drury, L Peltier, P Green, L Varney, L Turner, R McCormack, M Zaliukas, D Pugh, G Ariyibi

CHANCES

Leeds embark on their first full season under president Massimo Cellino with little-known new head coach David Hockaday (right) tasked with launching a promotion challenge. But the majority of fans remain sceptical.



NOTTINGHAM FOREST


MANAGER: Stuart Pearce
POSITION LAST SEASON: 11th
GROUND: City Ground (30,603)
NICKNAME: The Reds
KEY MAN: Matty Fryatt

TRANSFERS

IN: D Fox, M Fryatt, L Veldwijk, L Laing, R Riera, D Vaughan, M Mancienne, C Burke
OUT: G Moussi, M Tudgay, I Miller, S Gillett, J Greening, R Djebbour, M Derbyshire, G Jara, R Majewski (loan)

CHANCES

Stuart Pearce's appointment has seen the feelgood factor return to the City Ground. A good start will see that grow and in Matty Fryatt (right) Forest might just have found the man who will score the goals to spark a promotion push.



WATFORD


MANAGER: Beppe Sannino
POSITION LAST SEASON: 13th
GROUND: Vicarage Road (17,477)
NICKNAME: The Hornets
KEY MAN: Troy Deeney

TRANSFERS

IN: H Gomes, G Tamas, C Cathcart, J Carlos Paredes, M Vydra (loan), D Tozser (loan), K Andrews (loan)
OUT: M Almunia, M Cassetti, R Jenkins, N Nosworthy, F Hall, L Neill, A Riera, G Woods, B Bawling

CHANCES

Matej Vydra's (right) return to partner Troy Deeney up front means Watford should not be short of goals next season and, if they can kick their infuriating habit of conceding late on, the Hornets will be play-off contenders again.



MIDDLESBROUGH

MANAGER: Aitor Karanka
POSITION LAST SEASON: 12th
GROUND: Riverside Stadium (34,988)
NICKNAME: Boro
KEY MAN: Albert Adomah

TRANSFERS

IN: T Mejias, Kike, J Husband
OUT: L Sirrell, B Meling, J Fowler, C Park, M Waters, M Dolan, J Leutwiler, S Parnaby, F Richardson, M Emnes, Lukas Jutkiewicz

CHANCES

There is a growing sense of expectation after Boro's storming finish to last season when they won six of their last eight games. A promising season could unfold under Spanish manager Aitor Karanka (right).



READING


MANAGER: Nigel Adkins
POSITION LAST SEASON: 7th
GROUND: The Madejski Stadium (24,161)
NICKNAME: The Royals
KEY MAN: Alex Pearce

TRANSFERS

IN: A Novakovich
OUT: N Arnold, L D'Ath, K Gorkss, M Liegertwood, J McAnuff, G Ugwu, A Le Fondre, S Taylor, D Carrico, M Partridge

CHANCES

Injuries and a lack of investment hindered the Royals last season, but they still only just missed out on the play-offs. But with key players from last season departing, Nigel Adkins (right) has a tough task to go one better.



WIGAN ATHLETIC


MANAGER: Uwe Rosler
POSITION LAST SEASON: 19th (PL)
GROUND: DW Stadium (25,133)
NICKNAME: The Latics
KEY MAN: Callum McManaman

TRANSFERS

IN: A Taylor, A Taylor-Sinclair, J Tavernier, O Riera, D Cowie, E Huws (loan)
OUT: J Beausejour, S Craine, M Holgersson, J Mustoe, A Buxton, J Gomez, D Redmond

CHANCES

Harry Redknapp labelled Wigan's squad the strongest in the division last year and such a claim can be bestowed upon Uwe Rosler's group again. Former Osasuna striker Oriol Riera (right) looks set to spearhead the attack.



MILLWALL


MANAGER: Ian Holloway
POSITION LAST SEASON: 19th
GROUND: The Den (20,146)
NICKNAME: The Lions
KEY MAN: David Forde

TRANSFERS

IN: C Edwards, L Gregory, B Webster, R Fuller, M Gueye
OUT: T Beadle, S Lowry, C Penny, L Trotter, L Feeney, A Keogh, J Smith

CHANCES

Ian Holloway (right) is, predictably, talking a good game but he has added little quality to a squad which struggled for the majority of last season. However, there should be at least three teams worse than them again.



ROTHERHAM UNITED


MANAGER: Steve Evans
POSITION LAST SEASON: 4th (L1)
GROUND: New York Stadium (12,021)
NICKNAME: The Millers
KEY MAN: Ben Pringle

TRANSFERS

IN: C Newton, M Derbyshire, K Broadfoot, J Bowery, S Loach, M Sadler, F Richardson, F Brandy, P Green, R Wood, R Hall
OUT: C Davis, M O'Connor, D Schofield, D Noble, L Ainsworth, N Adams, D Hylton, W Thomas, S Shearer, K Odejayi

CHANCES

After back-to-back promotions, consolidation has to be order of the day. But Rotherham have an ambitious chairman willing to spend so larger-than-life manager Steve Evans (right) will be targeting a mid-table finish.



WOLVES


MANAGER: Kenny Jackett
POSITION LAST SEASON: 1st (L1)
GROUND: Molineux (31,700)
NICKNAME: Wolves
KEY MAN: Bakary Sako

TRANSFERS

IN: T Rowe, R van La Parra
OUT: J Reckord, T Jakobsson, J Tank, R Parry, S Whittall, K Kostna, D Moli, M Ihiekwe, Z Ismail (loan), J Cassidy (loan), K Hause (loan)

CHANCES

Expectation is high among Wolves fans after they romped to the League One title last season. Boss Kenny Jackett (right) has kept the bulk of his squad intact and will see no reason why the club cannot challenge for a top-six finish.



PORTSMOUTH: 8/1*

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Club focus

Van la Parra in the mood

RAJIV van la Parra may have been an unknown quantity to many Wolves fans when arriving from Heerenveen this summer, but the Dutch winger is being tipped to become a favourite at Molineux.



Capped six times at Under-21 level for Holland, the 23-year-old comes to Wolves after scoring 14 goals in 82 games for Heerenveen, following an earlier spell at French outfit Caen.

Manager Kenny Jackett believes his new signing can adapt to the rigours of the Championship and make a real impression.

He said: "He's played for a very good club in Heerenveen as well, so he's played at a good standard of football.

"I think he can make the adjustment and the bottom line is I think he is good enough to do that."

Van La Parra added: "Last season was important because I was out of contract and hopefully my form saw Wolves come in for me. "I have to continue to do that and take the next step."

Evans toasts tasty Brandy

FEBIAN Brandy has a point to prove following an unsuccessful stint at Sheffield United, where he failed to reproduce the form he showed at Walsall.



Now he is looking to make his mark on the Championship after being snapped up on a free by Steve Evans.

"Nigel Clough will have had his reasons for letting him go, but I was amazed when he became available," said Evans. "He has the ability to be a top, top Championship player."

Brandy said: "I think I've got some unfinished business in football and I'm hoping I can address that and help Rotherham this season."

Ole on the attack

Solskjaer turns to Spaniards to lead charge for Premier League

by Pete Evans

IT is perhaps no surprise that Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's first summer as Cardiff manager has seen him invest almost entirely in centre-forwards in a bid to shoot his side back into the top flight.

The former striker, who plundered 128 goals in 11 years with Manchester United, has wasted no time in recruiting proven goalscorers in his image to solve a firepower issue that cost the Bluebirds relegation last season.

Javi Guerra signed a pre-contract agreement after 15 goals for Valladolid and his new life in south Wales was made easier with the arrival of fellow Spanish-speaking forward Federico Macheda, fresh from 10 goals in 10 starts at Birmingham last season.

The pair have already struck up a relationship, but they will face a battle to be Cardiff's regular strike duo, especially from a proven goalscorer in Adam Le Fondre, who has made his name with plenty of Solskjaer-esque strikes.

With a revitalised Kenwyne Jones and returning loanees Nicky Maynard and Joe Mason also pushing to start for the bookies' favourites, competition will be fierce.

The experienced Peter Whittingham will once again play a crucial part in supplying the wide array of forwards, and the long-serving midfielder is relishing the prospect of an attacking approach. "The gaffer has brought in boys who can



Cardiff new-boy Javi Guerra, seen here tackling Real Madrid's Gareth Bale, will pep up the attack this season

score goals," he said. "Where we were grinding out results before, now we have firepower. Kiko (Macheda), Alfie (Le Fondre), Javi (Guerra) and more. They are goalscorers. We have quality in our squad.

"Other teams are going to want to beat Cardiff because we have just come down. We are going to be a massive scalp in the Championship and we must approach games in the right way."

While it was no surprise to see Steven Caulker and Fraizer Campbell head back to the Premier League this summer with QPR and Crystal Palace respectively, there certainly has not been an exodus this summer at the Cardiff City

Stadium. With Fabio and Declan John expected to compete for the left-back position, long-serving Andrew Taylor headed to Wigan along with midfielder Don Cowie.

Craig Bellamy hung up his boots while Kevin McNaughton was loaned out once more, meaning the bulk of the squad remains intact.

So David Marshall, arguably one of the best goalkeepers in the top flight last season, is still on board along with the likes of Jordan Mutch, Ben Turner, Craig Noone and Mats Daehli.

And Whittingham, who signed a deal this summer to extend his stay to the 10-year mark, believes the retained stars could make the difference.

"We have a good core of boys who took Cardiff up and there is no doubt we have strength in depth," he said.

"That core of players who have done it before is important. They know what it takes. It's going to be a grind at times, but we'll deal with that."

With almost 30 first-team players currently at his disposal, including nine senior midfielders, Solskjaer's biggest challenge in the opening weeks could well be finding his best XI.

Solskjaer, who is yet to select his new skipper, will also know their home form has to improve if they are to make an immediate return.

Cardiff fans expect him to deliver.



We are going to be a massive scalp in the Championship and must approach games in the right way

- Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

by Pete Loosley

ROSS McCORMACK'S £11million move from Leeds United this summer may have grabbed most of the headlines at Fulham, but sneaking into the club virtually unnoticed was Geordie centre-back Shaun Hutchinson, who arrived from Motherwell.

A product of the famous Wallsend Boys Club in Newcastle, a club that has produced a plethora of stars over the years, including the likes of Alan Shearer, Peter Beardsley, Steve Bruce and Lee Clark, the 23-year-old will be getting his first taste of English football after six seasons north of the border with the Scottish Premier League outfit.

Hutchinson signed a two-year deal with the Cottagers in June after an

Hutchinson ready to steal the limelight

impressive spell with the Fir Park side, which saw him make 144 appearances, scoring nine goals in total. He played 40 games last season as they clinched the Premiership runners-up spot behind Celtic.

But he gave up the chance of playing in Europe with Well to move to Fulham, who are hoping to make their stay in the Championship a short one, following relegation last season.

He said: "I'm absolutely delighted to complete my signing for Fulham and I'm looking forward to starting

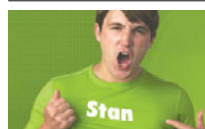
pre-season training under Felix Magath. Once I learned of Fulham's interest, it was a no-brainer for me and I couldn't wait to sign.

"Obviously we all know the size of club that Fulham is and I couldn't wait to come and have a look at it. The training ground is unbelievable."

Also joining Hutchinson and McCormack at Fulham this summer, are German full-back Tim Hoogland, Swiss defender Kay Voser, 21-year-old striker Adam Taggart and Greek left-back Konstantinos Stafylidis.



Hutchinson's move was a 'no-brainer'



BURY: 7/1*



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Club focus

▶ 'I want the satisfaction of bringing this club back'



Leeds' eccentric new owner has divided fans after a turbulent start

by James O'Brien

THERE'S a new sheriff in town, but is he the right man to reverse the fortunes of a club that has been closer to landing its own TV series than sealing a return to the promised land?

Many of the stories that have come out of Leeds United in the last decade or so could have been mistaken for fiction, starting with Peter Ridsdale's goldfish and continuing with the early days of eccentric Italian Massimo Cellino's reign.

He has labelled himself the club's new sheriff and, while there is no doubt Leeds have lacked leadership in recent years, the jury is still out on the former Cagliari owner.

This is a man who sacked Brian McDermott before he was handed the keys to Elland Road, was originally disqualified from owning the Championship side, laid off dozens of staff and appointed little-known David Hockaday as head coach.

However, Cellino spent millions to keep the club afloat during the takeover process, claims it is now running debt-free and has pledged to repurchase the stadium.

It is fair to say the fanbase is split when it comes to the 58-year-old, with half willing to give him time and the rest pointing to his appointment of Hockaday and his failure to back up his early promises as a sign of things to come.

The decision to sell star striker Ross McCormack to Fulham, which came despite Cellino saying he wouldn't go to a Championship rival, was widely accepted thanks to the generous transfer fee, but supporters are still waiting for a marquee signing. McCormack



Matt Smith will lead the Leeds attack alongside Souleymane Doukara, inset, in the absence of Ross McCormack

Stakes high for 'sheriff' Cellino

scored 28 of Leeds' 59 League goals last season, and the Whites may well have been preparing for life in League One without his efforts.

As it stands, much will depend on Matt Smith, who netted 13 times in his debut campaign, with Souleymane Doukara the only addition to the frontline.

Steve Morison is back at the club, but he has been criticised by fans for his effort in friendlies, while youngster

Lewis Walters is nursing a knee injury and Noel Hunt has yet to open his account in a white shirt. Cellino claims he set aside £15million for summer transfers even before McCormack's departure, but the club have yet to splash the cash and supporters are getting impatient.

Swiss right-back Gaetano Berardi is the one defensive addition to date and more reinforcements are needed if Leeds are to improve on last

term's record of 67 goals conceded. Goalkeepers Marco Silvestri and Stuart Taylor have been brought in, with Paddy Kenny out of favour and Jack Butland returning to Stoke.

Tommaso Bianchi has bolstered the midfield and England Under-17 international Lewis Cook is worth keeping an eye on, but United are still crying out for width and pace, something that was expected of Jimmy Kebe and Cameron Stewart, only for them to be unmitigated disasters.

In summary, Leeds need two goalscorers, given they already needed one before McCormack left, a couple of experienced heads at the back and quick wingers who will give opposition full-backs sleepless nights.

The Whites had no obvious strengths under McDermott and, without another five or six more players before the end of the transfer window, are going to be easy to play against this season.

Cellino spent a lot of money getting his hands on the club and has spoken of his

determination to oversee Leeds' Premier League return.

"I didn't buy a big club here," he told the local press in July.

"I bought the biggest club in England. You understand? This club has been 12 years in the s*** but I have this chance to do something good. I'm going to die but I'm going to do something good as well.

"You know how many people have come here asking to buy this club in the last 40 days? Four. Big companies. I told them I wouldn't sell for 100 billion. They said 'for one billion, you will'.

"I tried to explain to them, what is going to change if I sell for one billion? I don't have time to drink a glass of water so if I have one billion, so what? One kilo of caviar, 100 kilos of caviar...I'll work for my soul and the satisfaction of bringing this club back. How much is that worth? There's no price."

It all sounds great to Leeds fans but they want action, well aware they could be in for another season of farcical off-field stories.

Parr out to prove point

JONATHAN Parr doesn't have the fondest memories of Portman Road, but Ipswich's new recruit is determined to create some better ones.

Parr damaged ankle ligaments during Crystal Palace's 3-0 defeat to the Tractor Boys in April 2013, and missed the start of the Eagles' Premier League campaign the following season.

Despite making 15 appearances in the top flight, Parr was released this summer and is determined to get back to the top tier.

He said: "I did my ankle at Portman Road, so not the best memory for me. Hopefully I can create some good memories in my time here.

"It's been a long summer, trying to sort out where I'm going to play my football. I spoke to a number of clubs, but I had a good feeling about Ipswich.

"The manager told me what we wants from his team and how he's looking to be pushing for a place in the top six.

"That's where I want to be."

Vydra back for more

MATEJ Vydra returns to Watford from Udinese for a second time on an initial season-long loan deal, which is sure to delight Hornets fans.

The Czech Republic striker, who scored three times last year for West Brom in the Premier League, spent the 2012-13 season with Watford, receiving the Championship Player of the Year award and very nearly catapulted them to the top flight.

During his initial spell at Vicarage Road, Vydra scored 22 goals in 47 appearances en route to the play-off final against Crystal Palace, but he withdrew at half-time through injury and the Eagles went on to win.



FULHAM: 8/1*



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Betting guide

► 'McClaren's Rams are 8-1 to make it up this time'

QUIZ

1. Brighton have signed keeper David Stockdale from which fellow Championship team?
2. Who has been handed the captain's armband at Bolton?
3. Which Derby summer signing has been ruled out for nine months with a cruciate knee ligament injury?
4. Name the team that play at the New York Stadium.
5. Huddersfield have snapped up which player, following his release by Leeds United?
6. Bob Peeters manages which Championship side?
7. Which Crystal Palace defender has joined Nottingham Forest on a season-long loan?
8. Who finished top scorer in the Championship last season?

Answers: 1 Fulham; 2 Jay Spearing; 3 George Thorne; 4 Rotherham United; 5 Lee Peltier; 6 Charlton Athletic; 7 Jack Hunt; 8 Ross McCormack

9-4 Solskjaer has to deliver

by Jon Reed

IT is one of the most unpredictable leagues in world football, where former Premier League big boys struggle to regain top-flight status while pre-season relegation favourites suddenly find themselves in the hunt for promotion.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was thrown in at the deep end at Cardiff City last year after replacing Malky Mackay mid-season. Despite City's owner Vincent Tan laying the blame for relegation firmly at the feet of the Scot, Solskjaer will know he must deliver in his first full season at the Welsh club.

Cardiff have been installed as favourites to make a swift return to the Premier League. The Bluebirds are rated at 7-1 to win the title and a miserly 9-4 to earn promotion. Steve McClaren's Derby County side

just missed out last time after a heartbreaking defeat against QPR in the play-off final. The Rams are 8-1 to finish top of the pile, while you can get 11-4 on them going up.

Fulham, boosted by the arrival of £11million striker Ross McCormack, are also rated at 8-1 to land the title, closely followed by Norwich City and Wigan (both 9-1).

Those looking for a value bet might be tempted by Nottingham Forest and Wolves. Stuart Pearce returns to Forest as manager after an illustrious playing career with the East Midlands outfit.

The former England Under-21s boss nearly didn't take up the job after initial talks, but the pull of the club where he played for 12 years proved too strong.

Pearce will be given time by the City Ground faithful to deliver and odds of 6-1 to land

promotion represent decent value. Likewise Kenny Jackett should not be a manager under immediate pressure after leading Wolves to the League One title last year.

They are rated at 20-1 to top the League and seal back-to-back promotions.

For relegation it's hard to see past Blackpool for one of the three spots. Just three years ago the club were mixing it with the Premier League elite, but it's been a swift decline since.

This summer 27 players left the club and a pre-season tour to Spain had to be cancelled as the Seaside struggled to complete transfers. They are rated 4-6 for the drop.

Usual suspects Millwall, Charlton and Huddersfield are tipped to struggle again, while promoted sides Rotherham (5-2) and Brentford (7-2) could find the going tough.



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will be expected to win promotion

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Birmingham City	4-1
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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



HAMPSHIRE'S BIG ONE-DAY SCORES

Surrey v Hampshire
Cheltenham and Gloucester Trophy QF, The Brit Oval, July 2005 (50-over match)
Surrey innings
JGE Benning st Pothas b Udal73
+JN Batty not out158
AD Brown c Latouf b Tremlett12
GP Thorpe b Udal60
R Clarke b Ervine17
Azhar Mahmood c Pothas b Tremlett4
TJ Murtagh c Crawley b Ervine3
*MR Rampakrish not out5
Extras (2 lb, 16 nb, 8 w)26
Total (6 wickets, innings closed, 50 overs) 358
Fall of wickets: 1-142, 2-159, 3-274, 4-321, 5-328, 6-349
Bowling: Tremlett 10-0-68-2, Taylor 7-0-68-0, Ervine 7-0-47-2, Mascarenhas 8-0-50-0, Udal 10-0-62-2, Lamb 6-0-41-0, McMillan 2-0-20-0

Hampshire innings
GA Lamb c Batty b Azhar Mahmood0
+N Pothas c Mohammad Akram b Murtagh27
JP Crawley c Thorpe b Mohammad Akram45
SR Watson b Murtagh132
CD McMillan run out42
SM Ervine c Doshi b Benning16
KJ Latouf c Batty b Mohammad Akram25
AD Mascarenhas run out6
*SD Udal not out44
CT Tremlett not out1
Extras (4 lb, 12 nb, 5 w)21
Total (8 wickets, 47.5 overs) 359
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-41, 3-119, 4-200, 5-232, 6-270, 7-279, 8-342
Bowling: Azhar Mahmood 9-1-61-1, Murtagh 8-5-0-63-2, Ormond 10-0-71-0, Mohammad Akram 10-0-71-2, Doshi 7-0-64-0, Benning 3-0-25-1, Hampshire won by 2 wickets

Middlesex v Hampshire
totesport League Division 1, Lord's, May 2005 (45-over match)
Hampshire innings
+N Pothas lbw b Styris27
SM Katich c Scott b Hutton85
*SK Warne b Styris21
JP Crawley c Joyce b Weekes39
KP Pietersen c Strauss b Richardson80
SM Ervine c Scott b Hutchison1
GA Lamb run out24
AD Mascarenhas not out50
CT Tremlett run out8
SD Udal not out0
Extras (5 lb, 3 lb, 4 nb, 6 w)18
Total (8 wickets, innings closed, 45 overs) 353
Fall of wickets: 1-60, 2-90, 3-162, 4-217, 5-218, 6-284, 7-308, 8-336
Bowling: Richardson 8-1-59-1, Hutchison 9-1-72-1, Styris 9-0-70-2, Weekes 7-0-45-1, Hutton 5-0-38-1, Dalrymple 4-0-36-0, Joyce 3-0-25-0

Middlesex innings
PN Weekes c Lamb b Mascarenhas24
ET Smith c Lamb b Udal7
OA Shah lbw b Ervine89
SB Styris c Logan b Warne23
EC Joyce lbw b Tremlett30
JWM Dalrymple c Crawley b Tremlett12
AJ Strauss lbw b Udal6
*BL Hutton b Udal26
+BJM Scott not out13
A Richardson c Logan b Udal0
PM Hutchison c Warne b Pietersen0
Extras (4 lb, 7 w)11
Total (all out, 39 overs) 248
Fall of wickets: 1-18 (Smith), 2-61 (Weekes), 3-87 (Styris), 4-155 (Joyce), 5-183 (Dalrymple), 6-196 (Shah), 7-211 (Strauss), 8-234 (Hutton), 9-246 (Richardson), 10-248 (Hutchison)
Bowling: Udal 8-0-55-4, Mascarenhas 7-0-49-1, Tremlett 6-1-45-2, Warne 6-0-16-1, Ervine 8-0-48-1, Logan 3-0-30-0, Pietersen 1-0-1-1
Hampshire won by 105 runs

Warwickshire v Hampshire
Clydesdale Bank 40, Edgbaston (40-over match)
Hampshire innings
MJ Lumb c Troughton b Rankin5
JHK Adams b Rankin131
MA Carberry c Trott b Barker103
SM Ervine st Ambrose b Westwood48
JM Vince lbw b Imran Tahir5
*+N Pothas b Carter3
DG Cork not out23
LA Dawson not out4
Extras (1 lb, 5 lb, 13 w)19
Total (6 wickets, innings closed, 40 overs) 341
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-173, 3-259, 4-283, 5-293, 6-336
Bowling: Carter 7-0-68-1, Rankin 4-0-32-2, Barker 5-0-50-1, Clarke 4-0-40-0, Imran Tahir 8-0-53-1, Maddy 5-0-44-0, Westwood 7-0-48-1

Warwickshire innings
LJL Trott c Lumb b Ervine60
NM Carter c Vince b Wood20
IR Bell c Carberry b Ervine41
JO Troughton c Herath b Ervine6
DL Maddy st Pothas b Herath7
*JL Westwood lbw b Herath18
R Clarke c Dawson b Ervine3
+TR Ambrose c Vince b Tomlinson5
KHD Barker not out26
Imran Tahir c Pothas b Wood0
WB Rankin c Lumb b Wood7
Extras (3 lb, 2 nb, 13 w)18
Total (all out, 31.3 overs) 211
Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-108, 3-118, 4-133, 5-159, 6-164, 7-166, 8-177, 9-183, 10-211
Bowling: Tomlinson 7-0-44-1, Wood 7.3-0-56-3, Cork 4-0-41-0, Ervine 8-0-39-4, Herath 5-0-28-2
Hampshire won by 130 runs

GLENN LEADS HANTS

... but Greenidge/Richards inspired class of '75 still limited overs kings

GLENN Maxwell helped Hampshire rewrite the record books at Old Trafford last weekend.

The Australian smote a career best List A score of 146 as the visitors piled up a 50-overs total of 360-9 in a Royal London Cup tie against Lancashire.

Maxwell reached his half century off 45 balls and brought up his first hundred for Hampshire off just 75 deliveries.

In all, he faced 96 balls in his innings, hitting 22 fours and two sixes as Hampshire posted their second highest limited overs total in history.

The only time they have scored more runs was in amassing 371 against Glamorgan in Southampton in 1975 – but that total was made off 60 overs in a Gillette Cup tie.

Hampshire v Glamorgan, Gillette Cup, Southampton, 1975

Gordon Greenidge and Barry Richards set Hampshire on their way to a record breaking 371-4 in 60 overs.

Greenidge struck 177 – one of his 20 limited overs centuries for the county – and Richards hit 129 in an opening stand of 210 in a Gillette Cup second round tie.

Both Glamorgan's opening bowlers, Malcolm Nash and Tony Cordle, conceded over 80 runs in their 12 over allocations. Greenidge's West Indian colleague Andy Roberts then bagged 3-17 and Peter Sainsbury 3-54 as Glamorgan were dismissed for 207.

Hampshire innings
BA Richards b Ellis129
CG Greenidge c Hopkins b Nash177
DR Turner lbw b Davis19
TE Jesty b Nash12
*RMC Gilliat not out5
AME Roberts not out14
Extras (4 lb, 6 lb, 5 nb)15
Total (4 wickets, innings closed, 60 overs) 371
Fall of wickets: 1-210, 2-284, 3-352, 4-353
Bowling: Nash 12-1-84-2, Cordle 12-0-81-0, Solanky 12-1-57-0, Ellis 12-1-63-1, Armstrong 6-0-38-0, Davis 6-0-33-1

Glamorgan innings
A Jones lbw b Roberts4
AL Jones lbw b Roberts11
RC Davis st Stephenson b Sainsbury25
*Majid Khan c and b Sainsbury29
JA Hopkins hit wkt b Sainsbury12
GP Ellis c Stephenson b Jesty25
JW Solanky c Richards b Roberts51

+EW Jones c Stephenson b Rice0
MA Nash b Rice0
EA Cordle c Richards b Herman8
GD Armstrong not out19
Extras (2 lb, 16 lb, 3 nb, 2 w)23
Total (all out, 50.1 overs) 207
Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-32, 3-78, 4-83, 5-98, 6-138, 7-142, 8-144, 9-163, 10-207 (50.1 ov)
Bowling: Roberts 8.1-1-17-3, Herman 10-1-45-1, Rice 10-1-32-2, Jesty 12-2-37-1, Sainsbury 10-1-53-3
Hampshire won by 164 runs.

Hampshire v Lancashire, Royal London Cup, Old Trafford, 2014

Apart from Maxwell's thunderous century, Hampshire were also helped on their way to a large total by a 46-ball 64 from all-rounder Sean Ervine.

Hampshire bowlers Chris Wood, Matt Coles, James Tomlinson, Liam Dawson and Danny Briggs all bagged two wickets as Lancashire were all out for 212 to lose by 148 runs.

Hampshire Innings
JM Vince lbw b Jarvis5
J H K Adams c Horton b White41
G J Maxwell c Horton b White146
WR Smith lbw b Jarvis49
S M Ervine c Davies b Parry64
LA Dawson c Clark b Parry30
M T Coles c Davies b Parry0
A J Wheatley c Davies b White6
C P Wood run out2
D R Briggs not out10
JA Tomlinson not out1
Extras w4 nb2 pens 06
Total (50 overs) 360
Fall: 1-9 2-57 3-236 4-265 5-328 6-328 7-345 8-345 9-356
Bowling: Kabir Ali 3-1-14-0 Jarvis 10-0-68-2 White 10-0-61-3 Croft 10-0-66-0 Parry 10-0-75-3 Clark 6-0-59-0 Brown 1-0-17-0

Lancashire Innings
UT Khawaja b Wood5
A G Prince c Dawson b Wood14
KR Brown c Maxwell b Tomlinson35
P J Horton b Dawson57
S J Croft c Maxwell b Tomlinson4
J Clark b Dawson22
A L Davies c Vince b Coles40
W A White c Vince b Briggs13
SD Parry c Maxwell b Coles1
Kabir Ali c Vince b Briggs4
K M Jarvis not out6
Extras lb5 w4 nb2 pens 011
Total (37.2 overs) 212
Fall: 1-7 2-40 3-59 4-71 5-135 6-150 7-173 8-186 9-201
Bowling: Wood 6-1-27-2 Tomlinson 6-0-37-2 Coles 6-0-41-2 Dawson 10-0-56-2 Briggs 9.2-0-46-2
Hampshire won by 148 runs

Hampshire v Surrey, C & G Trophy, Oval, 2005

A remarkable game in south London saw Hampshire win by two wickets.

That came after Surrey had posted 358-6 off their 50 overs, with opener Jonathan Batty hitting 158 not out.

The wicket-keeper's previous best score in limited overs cricket had been just 66.

Batty and James Benning (73) put on 142 for the first Surrey wicket, setting up their county's huge total.

Hampshire slipped to 41-2 in reply, but that only brought Watson to the crease.

The No 4 also went on to make his maiden List A hundred, off 84 balls with 10 fours and two sixes.

When the Australian was finally out, for a superb 132 off 105 balls, Hampshire were within sight of a famous victory.

Craig McMillan (42 off 37 balls) had helped Watson maintain the mid innings pace, before captain and No 9 bat Shaun Udal came in to crack an undefeated 44 off 39 balls.

Hampshire won on 359-8 with 13 balls remaining of an epic encounter.

Udal went on to skipper Hampshire to final victory over Warwickshire at Lord's and end a 13-year wait for silverware.

Hampshire v Middlesex, Totesport League, Lord's, May 2005

Kevin Pietersen played one of his most destructive innings for Hampshire in one of his first limited overs games for the county.

Coming in at No 5, KP blasted 80 off 50 balls with six sixes and three fours as Hampshire rattled up 353-8 in a 45-over contest.

Simon Katich top scored with 85 as an opener, with Dimi Mascarenhas blasting an undefeated 50 off 26 balls down the order.

Owais Shah, who played for Hampshire in the t20 Blast earlier this summer, top scored for the hosts with 89 off 64 balls.

But with spinner Shaun Udal bagging 4-55 after Shane Warne elected him to open the bowling, Middlesex were bowled out for 248.

Hampshire v Warwickshire, CB 40, Edgbaston, May 2010

Jimmy Adams hammered



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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

TO 50-OVER RECORD



MASTER BLASTER:
Hampshire's Glenn Maxwell.

what remains his highest ever one day score for the county.

Adams (131 off 104 balls) and Michael Carberry (103 off just 70 deliveries) added 168 for the second wicket as Hampshire powered to 341-6 off only 40 overs at Edgbaston.

It was Adams' maiden List A century for Hampshire – he has only ever scored two – while Sean Ervine clubbed 48 of 29 balls and Dominic Cork hit an unbeaten 23 off 12 balls.

Warwickshire's England pair of Jonathan Trott (60 off 58 balls) and Ian Bell (41 off 24 balls) top scored for the hosts in reply.

But with Ervine completing a fine all round performance with 4-39, and opening bowler Chris Wood bagging 3-56, Warwickshire were all out for 211.

Hampshire v Berkshire, NatWest Trophy, Southampton, 1985

Paul Terry blasted a career best 165 not out as Hampshire posted 339-3 off 60 overs against the outclassed Minor Counties visitors.

Terry, whose previous best List A score was 110, went on to the highest of his 12 limited overs hundreds for the county.

He put on 152 for the first wicket with Gordon Greenidge (89).

In reply, Chris Smith bagged 3-32 as Berkshire tumbled to 152 all out.

Hampshire v Somerset, National League, Taunton, August 2003

Opener Simon Katich struck 106 off 88 balls as Hampshire rattled up 335-6 on Taunton's batsman's paradise in 45 overs.

John Crawley was also close to three figures, hitting 92 off just 64 balls.

There was also a 39-ball half-century from John Francis, who was to join Somerset a few weeks later.

Somerset's reply began disas-

trously, captain Jamie Cox out for a duck to Chaminda Vaas and fellow opener Carl Gazzard following soon after to Chris Tremlett to leave the hosts 2-2. Somerset eventually made 219 with Shaun Udal taking 3-36.

Hampshire v Worcestershire, NatWest Trophy, New Road, 1996

Robin Smith lashed an undefeated 158 as Hampshire posted 328-6 in a NatWest Trophy second round tie.

He shared a second wicket stand of 179 with Jason Laney (82), with no else scoring more than 20.

It was one of his 27 career List A centuries for county and country.

With Kevan James bagging 4-42, including the wicket of dangerman Graeme Hick for a duck, the hosts never looked like pulling off a shock and were all out for 203, Cardigan Connor taking 3-17.

Hampshire v Leicestershire, NatWest Trophy, Grace Road, 1987

Hampshire powered their way to 326-9 off 60 overs, but still lost.

Home skipper Peter Willey rolled back the years with a brutal 154 as Leicestershire posted 341-6.

David Gower, later to join Hampshire of course, added 79.

Virtually all the Hampshire top and middle order made runs in reply, but no one could get anywhere near Willey's effort.

Mark Nicholas top scored with 80 and Malcolm Marshall (51) and Tim Tremlett (43no) provided lower order runs. Robin Smith fell one short of his half century.

Hampshire v Norfolk, NatWest, Southampton, 1996

Another large Hampshire total in that summer's NatWest Trophy competition.

This time Jason Laney cracked a career high 153 as Hampshire motored to 322-6 off their 60 overs.

Laney, whose previous best List A score going into the match was 53, and John Stephenson (107) put on a county record 269 for the first wicket.

Norfolk slipped to 18-2 in reply and eventually made 223 to lose by 99 runs, Cardigan Connor and Kevan James sharing six wickets.

HAMPSHIRE'S BIG ONE-DAY SCORES

Hampshire v Berkshire
NatWest Trophy 1st Round, Southampton, July 1985

Hampshire innings
CG Greenidge st Child b Roope89
VP Terry not out165
RA Smith c Child b Sluman37
*MCJ Nicholas c Harvey b Jones8
CL Smith run out12
JJE Hardy not out1
Extras (5 b, 7 lb, 2 nb, 13 w)27
Total (4 wickets, innings closed, 60 overs) 339
Fall of wickets: 1-152, 2-247, 3-271, 4-319
Bowling: Roberts 11-1-70-0, Jones 12-1-82-1, New 12-0-41-0, Roope 12-0-77-1, Sluman 12-1-53-1, Lickley 1-0-4-0

Berkshire innings
MG Lickley c RA Smith b Tremlett20
JA Cloughton st Parks b CL Smith19
ML Simmons lbw b Tremlett3
GRJ Roope c Greenidge b Nicholas26
DB Gorman c Tremlett b CL Smith28
*JF Harvey c RA Smith b CL Smith1
+GEJ Child c Parks b Nicholas10
PM New b RA Smith13
TE Roberts c CL Smith b Andrew7
LP Sluman not out12
JH Jones c Tremlett b RA Smith0
Extras (6 lb, 3 nb, 4 w)13
Total (all out, 58.5 overs) 152
Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-36, 3-70, 4-78, 5-80, 6-103, 7-122, 8-137, 9-141, 10-152 (58.5 ov)
Bowling: James 12-0-31-0, Marshall 3-2-1-0, Andrew 10-1-28-1, Tremlett 7-5-2-2, Nicholas 12-1-39-2, CL Smith 12-3-32-3, RA Smith 2.5-0-13-2
Hampshire won by 187 runs

Somerset v Hampshire
National League Division 2, August 2003

Hampshire innings
JRC Hamblin c Blackwell b McLean20
SM Katich c Jones b Gilder106
+DA Kenway c Dutch b Jones35
*JP Crawley b McLean92
JD Francis c Gilder b Jones50
AD Mascarenhas c Jones b McLean5
LR Prittpaul not out1
SD Udal not out5
Extras (4 b, 6 lb, 2 nb, 3 w, 6 pen)21
Total (6 wickets, innings closed, 45 overs) 335
Fall of wickets: 1-63, 2-124, 3-213, 4-309, 5-321, 6-330
Bowling: McLean 9-0-51-3, Gilder 8-0-69-1-2, Jones 9-0-54-2, Parsons 3-0-31-0, Dutch 4-0-31-0, Blackwell 6-0-39-0, Durston 6-0-44-0

Somerset innings
J Cox c Kenway b Vaas0
+CM Gazzard c Kenway b Tremlett1
KP Dutch c Katich b Mullally36
ID Blackwell c Hamblin b Tremlett43
KA Parsons c Crawley b Udal46
*M Burns c Kenway b Mascarenhas5
JC Hildreth c Mascarenhas b Prittpaul20
WJ Durston c Tremlett b Vaas23
NAM McLean b Udal22
PS Jones c Katich b Udal5
GM Gilder not out8
Extras (2 lb, 2 nb, 6 w)10
Total (all out, 36.1 overs) 219
Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Cox), 2-2 (Gazzard), 3-75 (Blackwell), 4-86 (Dutch), 5-99 (Burns), 6-155 (Hildreth), 7-160 (Parsons), 8-201 (Durston), 9-208 (McLean), 10-219 (Jones)
Bowling: Vaas 7-1-45-2, Tremlett 5-0-42-2, Mullally 6-0-37-1, Mascarenhas 5-1-31-1, Udal 8.1-0-36-3, Prittpaul 5-0-26-1
Hampshire won by 116 runs

Worcestershire v Hampshire
NatWest Trophy 2nd Round, New Road, July 1996

Hampshire innings
*JP Stephenson c Lampitt b Newport20
JS Laney lbw b Lampitt82
RA Smith c Solanki b Moody158
WKM Benjamin lbw b Lampitt0
VP Terry c Newport b Illingworth9
PR Whitaker c Rhodes b Lampitt8
SD Udal not out0
KD James not out0
Extras (15 lb, 6 nb, 22 w)43
Total (6 wickets, innings closed, 60 overs) 328
Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-213, 3-222, 4-258, 5-289, 6-325
Bowling: Newport 12-3-60-1, Moody 11-0-57-1, Sheriyyar 5-0-35-0, Lampitt 12-0-56-3, Illingworth 9-0-44-1, Hick 6-0-27-0, Church 5-0-34-0

Worcestershire innings
TS Curtis c Aymes b James15
MJ Church b James35
GA Hick lbw b James0
*TM Moody c Aymes b Connor44
KR Spiring c Aymes b Udal25
VS Solanki c Aymes b Connor9
SR Lampitt c Connor b Udal5
+SJ Rhodes run out7
PJ Newport c Connor b James11
RK Illingworth not out29
A Sheriyyar c Benjamin b Connor10
Extras (2 b, 4 lb, 7 w)13
Total (all out, 52.4 overs) 203
Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-53, 3-56, 4-108, 5-136, 6-137, 7-146, 8-156, 9-165, 10-203 (52.4 ov)
Bowling: Connor 9.4-2-17-3, Milburn 10-0-50-0, James 12-2-42-4, Stephenson 9-0-42-0, Udal 12-1-46-2
Hampshire won by 125 runs

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



Hampshire fixtures 2014

April

6 Worcestershire (CC) Ageas Bowl
Hampshire 263 (Ervine 93, Adams 67) and 27-1 drew with Worcestershire 350-7 (Coles 3-58)

13 Gloucestershire (CC) Bristol
Hampshire 422 (J Vince 144, A Wheeler 82) and 215-2 (M Carberry 100no, J Vince 58no) beat Gloucestershire 302 (K Abbott 5-67, J Tomlinson 4-68) and 322 by eight wickets.

20 Derbyshire (CC) Derby
Hampshire 328 (W Smith 70, J Gattling 67) and 236-3 (J Adams 84, J Vince 50no, M Carberry 47) drew with Derbyshire 399 (K Abbott 4-84).

27 Surrey (CC) Ageas Bowl
Hampshire 400-6 (J Vince 156, J Adams 65) drew with Surrey 99-2.

May

5 Cardiff MCCU (Uni) Ageas Bowl
Hampshire 383-8 dec (L McManus 108) and 212-3 dec (L McManus 106*) drew with Cardiff 173 all out and 165-4.

11 Glamorgan (CC) Ageas Bowl
Glamorgan 234 (S Ervine 3-36, M Coles 3-39, K Abbott 3-66) & 187 (J Tomlinson 3-40, K Abbott 3-43) lost to Hampshire 345 (M Carberry 66, L Dawson 64, J Vince 61) & 68-4 by 6 wickets.

16 Glamorgan (t20) Ageas Bowl
Glamorgan 161-7 (Briggs 3-23) beat Hampshire 151-6 by 10 runs.

18 Leicestershire (CC) Leicester
Hampshire 332-10 (Vince 70, Wheeler 57, Adams 40, Ervine 40, Abbott 40) & 338-9 dec (Smith 46, Gattling 44, Vince 56, Wheeler 46, Coles 83) beat Leicestershire 296-10 (Abbott 4-55, Tomlinson 4-49) & 96-10 (Briggs 4-13, Coles 3-24) by 278 runs.

23 Sussex (t20) Hove
Hampshire 177-5 (Vince 52) beat Sussex 159-5 by 18 runs.

25 Middlesex (t20) Northwood
Hampshire 198-2 (Vince 68, Shah 49) beat Middlesex 151-9 (Briggs 3-20) by 47 runs.

30 Essex (t20) Ageas Bowl
Essex 145-5 lost to Hampshire 146-2 (J Vince 57no, O Shah 50no) by eight wickets.

June

1 Derbyshire (CC) Ageas Bowl
Hampshire 388 (A Wheeler 87, W Smith 82, J Adams 60, M Bates 50) & 214-5 dec (J Adams 67) drew with Derbyshire 257 (D Briggs 5-50, K Abbott 3-48) & 107-8 (J Tomlinson 3-16).

5 Kent (t20) Ageas Bowl
Hampshire 171-7 (M Carberry 73, J Adams 47) bt Kent 144-4 (D Briggs 3-28) by 27 runs.

8 Worcestershire (CC) New Road
Worcestershire 402-9 dec (D Balcombe 3-53) drew with Hampshire 219 (W Smith 67, J Vince 48) and 321-5 (M Carberry 125, G Maxwell 85).

13 Somerset (t20) Taunton
Somerset 176-4 bt Hampshire 175-7 (M Carberry 38) by one run.

15 Essex (CC) Ageas Bowl
Hampshire 286 & 440-3 dec (J Vince 240, W Smith 151no) bt Essex 121 (K Abbott 5-44, J Tomlinson 3-25) & 135 (K Abbott 3-23) by 470 runs.

20 Gloucs (t20) Ageas Bowl
Hampshire 180-6 (J Adams 69no, J Vince 39) beat Gloucestershire 178-8 (W Smith 3-26) by two runs.

25 Glamorgan (t20) Cardiff
Hampshire 170-6 (M Carberry 59, J Adams 52) bt Glamorgan 164-6 by 6 runs.

Continued on facing page

THE Ageas Bowl enjoyed its week in the sun when England won their first Test match since last year's Ashes in West End.

Despite being the first Test in England to start on a Sunday, an aggregate attendance of more than 49,000 over the five days saw England beat India by 266 runs in the third match of the five-Test series.

During the contest, Hampshire chairman Rod Bransgrove visited the brand new media centre to discuss the biggest match in 14 seasons at The Ageas Bowl, as well as the ground's past and exciting future.

Q Was this the highlight of your chairmanship so far?

A: To be honest, I can't even remember the beginning of it now, but it's the best I can remember. It's the biggest milestone for us given where we are and what we aspire to. This is a massive milestone for us. I feel proud and delighted.

Q What were the challenges of a Sunday start?

A: Obviously marketing is difficult because it's a different day. Traditionally it's not a day that cricket starts on and traditionally we rely very heavily on corporate sales which are virtually non-existent at the weekend. So we knew we had something of a handicap. In fairness, we've been helped by ECB. They're helping financially and have acknowledged the difficulties of selling a game on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday when even a Friday start is cursed by some people.

Q Have you been reassured that low crowds will not harm your case for future matches?

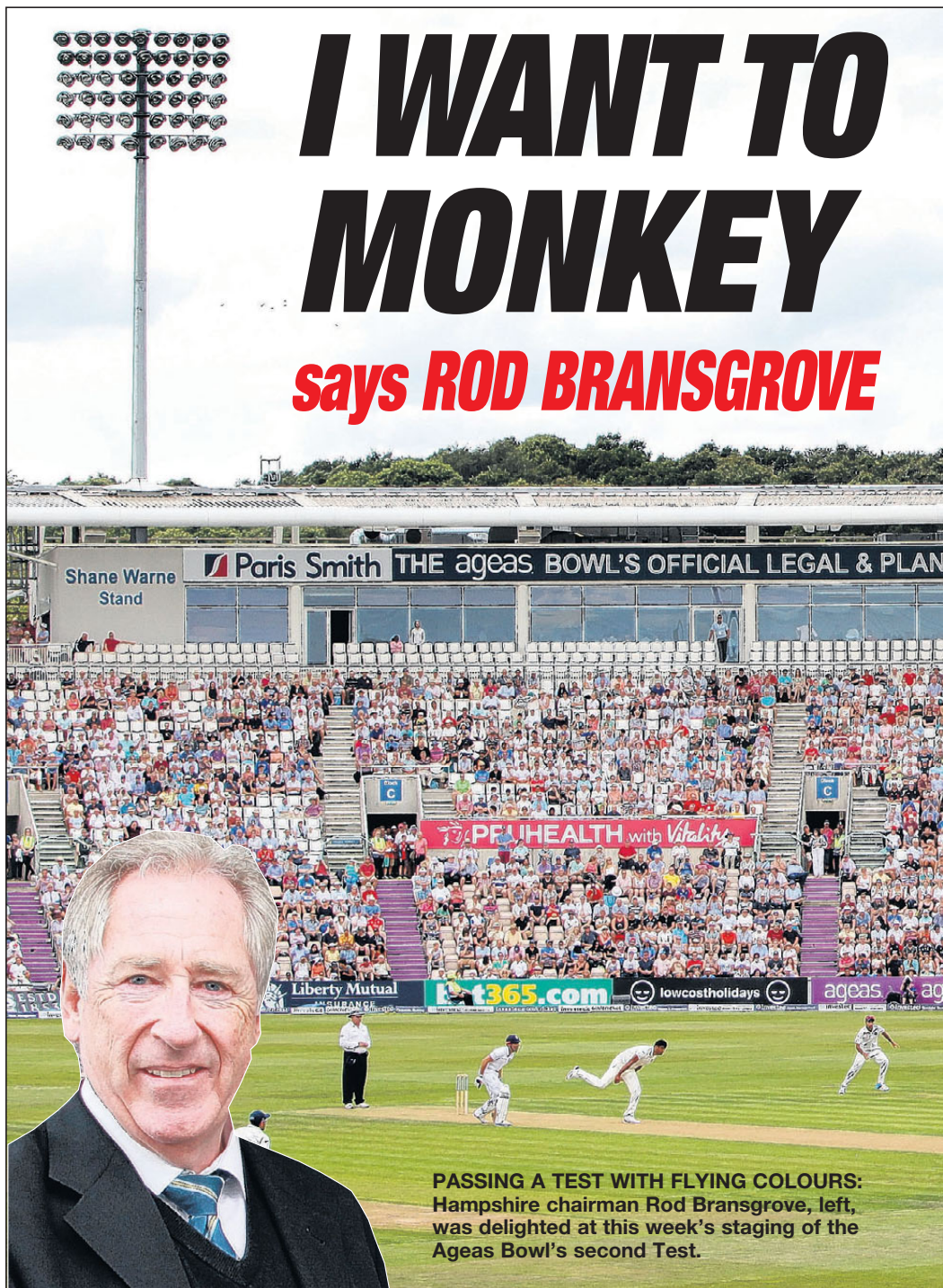
A: We have been assured that and I hope that will be the case. We were unsuccessful in the last bidding process, which was very disappointing. Since then we've looked very seriously at ourselves in terms of the area which apparently we failed on which was legacy. I didn't really see that we fell short in terms of legacy. We've provided a great legacy here, we've saved a local cricket club and built a great new ground. But we've done a lot more now with our charity [Hampshire Cricket in the Community], setting up the learning centre and the boxing club and doing everything we can to make an impact on the local communities. So I think we're quite strong there.

Q. Has it surprised you how difficult it is to establish Test attendance in a new area?

A: I don't think it's the area that's been the struggle here, we've battled against a difficult scheduling issue. To have encouraged the best part of 16,000 people here on a Sunday would have been a challenge for everybody, to be honest, on the first day of a Test match.

Q. When you bid for a Test, you don't bid for a Sunday start do you?

A: No, we had no idea. The assumption is made that it will start on a Thursday when you bid. And then, generally speaking, if there's a change there may be an adjustment to the fee payable but I don't really know. That's not the case with this one. It is what it is. Someone was quoted as saying the reason we got it for a lower fee was because it was a Sunday start but that's nonsense on two levels, firstly it was never a lower fee and the other is that no one knew it would be a Sunday start.



PASSING A TEST WITH FLYING COLOURS: Hampshire chairman Rod Bransgrove, left, was delighted at this week's staging of the Ageas Bowl's second Test.

Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

CRICKET REPORTER

Q. When did you realise it would be a Sunday start?

A: Approximately August 25, 2013. I was in the Peabody Hotel in Memphis! We had a telephone conference and that's when I was informed it was a tight schedule.

Q. Did you know straight away that was going to be a problem?

A: We all knew it was going to be a challenge, no one had started a Test match in this country on a Sunday. We're a ground that's up for trying new things.

Q. You say it's an important milestone for where you want to aspire to. What do you aspire to?

A: It's no secret I think this ground warrants and deserves an Ashes Test match, and it's a burden being the only ground in this country which has never been awarded an Ashes Test match. That's a monkey that I want off our back – that's what we're working towards.

Q. When does the bidding process start?

A: There's a consultation process going on at the moment. Hopefully we'll get a good process of allocation.

Q. There are three grounds with staging agreements already for 2019 aren't there?

Yorkshire and Surrey are regarded as being separate, they have long-term staging agreements, so this process is effectively for the rest.

Q. But three of the fives Ashes Tests are effectively allocated. Is that how you see it?

A: Obviously Lord's, The Oval and I think Leeds because at the moment there is not another tour. So there are two Ashes Tests up for grabs. It's harsh but all the other new grounds have been granted this one way or the other. It's the ultimate accreditation, it's what we all look for and what we're all pitching for.

Q. Have you ever thought about marketing The Ageas Bowl as a one-

LOCAL LEAGUE HAMPSHIRE CRICKET - SEE PAGES 36/37

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight



GET ASHES OFF MY BACK



day home for England because the ODIs are such great events here?

A: I just think that in principle we should always be staging the best competitions at the best facilities. You put the best shows at the best theatres, that's the hierarchy of performance if you like, and we're aiming to be a ground outside of the London grounds, which have different reasons for being there. And I will stress once again I'm a huge fan of Lord's. I don't regard them as competition. There's every justification for playing three games out of seven in London because they're all sold and do very well. Our competition is with the other grounds for the remaining eight Test matches every two years. And the way we want to compete for those is by just becoming the best. That's what we have to set out as our ultimate objec-

tive. To be the best ground in the country. We've been built from the ground up and designed to be a highly functional international cricket ground so there's every reason why we should become the best one. That has to be our objective.

Q. Are you satisfied the allocation system has been meritocratic and that it will be in the future?

A: I'm very fortunate we've got this Test match and would like every opportunity to demonstrate what we can do. We haven't been particularly fortunate or lucky in previous allocations but maybe we haven't demonstrated to the extent we can now what we can produce. I've got an open mind about it and would like to think next time round we'll be well considered. If the words and reports that I'm receiving are

the genuine reflection of people's view of this stadium, this stage for cricket, then all other things being equal you'd like to think we should do very well.

Q. In retrospect was it a mistake to have major matches here before it was all finished?

A: If you put a stadium in a place where a stadium didn't use to be you're going to have a learning curve. We had county games that would attract a few thousand but we hadn't actually staged a game that would attract, say, 10,000 people, which makes a massive difference to the infrastructure burden. We had a disaster during the Sri Lanka game in the [2004] Champions Trophy. But we respond well to learning options. When we realised we were below par at that stage, well below

par, we invested very heavily in a people movement software package, an airport software that tracks the movement of people – intelligent people, less intelligent people, some drunk people, disabled people – and tracks how you move people. And that's what dictated the new road. From that we learnt about road closures, one-way systems and getting people in and out quickly. We keep monitoring that now, we monitor our times at the traffic lights at the end of Marshall Drive and the roundabout at Junction 7. They're timed with the intention always to be faster than last time. So we're constantly trying to improve those performances. I don't think it would have made any difference if we started the learning curve now because we may just have learnt the same things ten years later. It's how you respond to the requirement for learning that's important and I hope we've done that. You could argue we could have done that research beforehand. Maybe with the benefit of hindsight next time I build a cricket ground, I'll do that work fast! I did actually have someone ask me to build one for him in Mumbai! I said 'no, you only ever build one of these in your lifetime!'

Q. What about your own future involvement?

A: I've got a management infrastructure now that I can rely on. We should have the work finished next year. It's become more than a job, it's been an obsession for the last ten years and not wholly enjoyable in recent years. It will be nice to sit back and weigh up options at that time. I don't see myself leaving the country straight away. But I don't think I want to stay as involved as I've been. It's been difficult and I don't expect to recover the large part of the money [thought to be around £12m] I've put into it. One day it might be worth a lot for my estate, my kids might have a dream day in 30 years' time, but that hasn't been the motive. Despite claims elsewhere, I've never come into this with a profit motive. This has been everything at some stage; an ambition, a business, an obsession and sometimes it's just been a battle of wills.

Q. If you had known how much this would take out of you, would you have started the journey?

A: No one can answer that. A truism of this way of life is that the highs are sensational. Good days like this, winning trophies, provide an adrenaline rush that you can't get in an office or an ordinary business. There's an awful lot of what I call grunt work that goes into it. Generally speaking, if you have a day like this every so often it's like a golfer having a hole-in-one. It tends to make it all worthwhile.

Q. Is this equivalent to a 9-5 job for you?

It's a great deal more than that. Even if I'm not here I'm thinking about new projects and mentally problem solving. A big challenge this year has been establishing and enhancing the Community Trust, Hampshire Cricket in the Community. That's given me a whole new direction in a way. We're looking to take 6,000 kids through our learning unit in the next year, that's a real contribution that's measurable. People that might not get that education elsewhere can come here.

We've got a mathematics programme we call Mathletes to bring sport into the process of learning for kids who might not otherwise get it.

We're hopefully trying to enhance the lives of more elderly people, getting them to learn how to use these things [smart-phones] well and come to terms with modern technologies, especially communication technologies.

Those things are becoming quite rewarding. In fact I might find myself moving more towards that once this is all running well.

Hampshire fixtures 2014

Continued from facing page

27 Surrey (t20)Oval
Hampshire 131-9 lost to Surrey 137-2 by eight wickets.

28 Surrey (CC)Oval
Surrey 474-8 and 13-0 drew with Hampshire 354 all out (Smith 82, Ervine 80, Adams 79)

July

4 Kent (t20)Canterbury
Hampshire 173-9 beat Kent 126 all out (Wood 4-24) by 47 runs.

6 Somerset (t20)Ageas Bowl
Somerset 155-4 beat Hampshire 116 all out by 39 runs.

7 Gloucs (CC)Ageas Bowl
Hampshire 297 (Balcombe 65*) and 213-6 (Vince 63) drew with Gloucestershire 504-8 dec.

11 Middlesex (t20)Ageas Bowl
Middlesex 173-6 bt Hampshire 123 by 50 runs.

13 Essex (CC)Colchester
Hampshire 246 (A Wheeler 107, N Rimmington 65no) & 171 (M Carberry 56) lost to Essex 285 & 136-8 (L Dawson 4-58, D Briggs 4-61) by two wickets.

18 Sussex (t20)Ageas Bowl
Hampshire 177-3 (M Carberry 87no, J Adams 52, S Ervine 32no) bt Sussex 171-8 (D Briggs 4-28) by six runs.

22 Essex (t20)Chelmsford
Essex 167-9 (W Smith 3-17) lost to Hampshire 168-5 (M Carberry 57, M Coles 54) by five wickets.

26 Derbyshire (RLC)Derby
Derbyshire 340-5 bt Hampshire 204 (M Carberry 55) by 136 runs.

27 Lancashire (RLC)Old Trafford
Hampshire 360-9 (G Maxwell 146, S Ervine 64, W Smith 49, J Adams 41) bt Lancashire 212 by 148 runs.

31 Gloucs (RLC)Bristol
Gloucestershire 233 bt Hampshire 198 (J Adams 48, W Smith 47) by 35 runs.

August

3 Notts (t20 QF)Trent Bridge

6 Leicestershire (RLC)Ageas Bowl

8 Northants (RLC)Ageas Bowl

11 Worcs (RLC)Ageas Bowl

13 Essex (RLC)Chelmsford

14 Sri Lanka A (Tour)Ageas Bowl

15 Kent (CC)Canterbury

21 Yorkshire (RLC)Ageas Bowl

31 Leicestershire (CC)Ageas Bowl

September

15 Kent (CC)Ageas Bowl

23 Glamorgan (CC)Cardiff

Key: CC = county championship. t20 = NatWest t20 Blast. RLC = Royal London Cup (50 overs).

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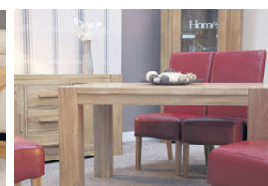


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Local Cricket Spotlight



Friend is a foe to his opponents

VENTNOR all-rounder Tom Friend has been named Southern Electric Premier League Cricketer of the Month for July.

Currently the Premier Division's leading run scorer, Friend, pictured below, was in consistently good form last month and scored heavily almost every time he went to the crease.

Fawley's Tom Gates, who hit a match winning century against Basingstoke & North Hants, is named Division 1 winner.

Sixteen year old Calmore Sports left-hander Ben Johns won the Division 2 award, while Fair Oak's Rhys Oxley took the SPL3 prize.

TOP PERFORMERS

ECB Premier Division

Batting: Tom Friend (Ventnor) 459, Tom Alsop (Academy) 452, Tom Morton (South Wilts) 447, Pete Hopson (Havant) 428, Matt Drakeley (St Cross Symondians) 380, Richard Morris (Bashley Rydal) 370, Joe Weatherley (Academy) 350.

Bowling: James Hibberd (South Wilts) 26, Sam Thomson (Bashley Rydal) 24, * Cameron Valente (Totton & Eling) 23, Richard Taylor (St Cross Symondians) 22, Brad Taylor (Academy) 18, Jordan Finney (St Cross Symondians) 18.

Wicketkeeping:

Dan Friedman (Bashley Rydal) 17, Tom Morton 16, Jamie Rood (Burridge) 13.

Division 1

Batting: Dave Banks (Sarisbury Athletic) 412, Dave Taylor (Andover) 396, * Brad Schmulian (Bournemouth) 374, Jonathon Norris (Sarisbury Athletic) 370, Tom Gates (Fawley) 364.

Bowling:

Nick Elliott (New Milton) 27, * Kieran Geyle (Sarisbury Athletic) 23, * Brad Schmulian 21, Matt Thankachan (Basingstoke) 21, Wayne Smith (Fawley) 20.

Wicketkeeping:

Kieran Earl (Fawley) 15, Chris Martin (Liphook) 14, Ryan Beck (New Milton) 13.

Division 2

Batting: Ben Johns (Calmore Sports) 384, Jack Hersh (Hartley Wintney) 379, Mark Lavelle (Calmore Sports) 343, Connor Browne (Langley Manor) 323, Danny Plume (HW) 305, JaCK Marston (Portsmouth) 313.

Bowling:

* Hamish Blomfield (Langley Manor) 22, * Pat Burns (Portsmouth) 22, * Ryan Felsch (Rowledge) 18, Alex Dilley (Sparsholt) 18, David Gough (Sparsholt) 17.

Wicketkeeping:

Adam Gough (Sparsholt) 13, * Scott Duggan (Paultons) 12, Ben Wish (Rowledge) 11.

Division 3

Batting: Warren Ekstraal (Waterlooville) 421, James Scutt (Waterlooville) 387, Mark Heffernan (Alton) 379, Jack Davies (P & S) 313.

Bowling:

Tom Allam (Titchborne Park) 26, James Rapson (Bashley Rydal) 25, Rhys Oxley (Fair Oak) 20, Lee Partner (Alton) 20.

Wicketkeeping:

Nigel le Bas (Trojans) 16, Mark Heffernan (Alton) 15, Andy Reynolds (Waterlooville) 13.



It's a family affair...

IT was almost a family affair when County Division 4 South strugglers Wickham took on Ryde II at Hardings Shute.

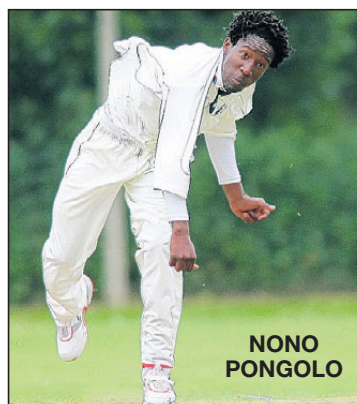
The villagers could only rustle up seven men for the Fast Cat trip across the Solent – four of them members of the Gwynn family, brothers Andy, David and John, and a son, Peter, who top scored with 39 not out.

Fortunately, skipper Andy Gwynn managed to win the

toss and spare Wickham's 'magnificent seven' a three-hour ordeal in the hot Island sun.

With 31 extras supporting Peter's 39 not out, depleted Wickham managed to make 111 all out – but were soundly beaten by eight wickets in 16 overs.

Andy Gwynn took both the wickets, but confessed to experiencing a problem or two spreading his fielders either side of the wicket.



Only yourself to blame, Nono

EVERY day South African all-rounder Nono Pongolo spends hour upon hour rolling Hambledon's Ridge Meadow pitch to make it nice and batsman friendly.

So, imagine Nono's acute disappointment last weekend when he went into bat against Andover – and the first

ball he faced from spinner Danny Foy shot, pea-rolled along the ground and clean bowled him!

Nono couldn't find the Hambledon groundsman anywhere...

Andover won the match by one wicket, chasing down Hambledon's 205-7.

Ropley are eyeing another step up

GO-AHEAD Ropley have bought a brand new set of £5,000 covers – the latest enhancement of facilities the club hope will soon attract Southern Electric Premier League cricket to the village.

Two seasons ago, when they were playing in County Division 3, such a dream was almost unimaginable, writes MIKE VIMPANY.

But consecutive promotions followed by what is a turning out to be a quite remarkable debut season in the top flight of the Hampshire League has put the well appointed village club within realistic distance of fulfilling that ambition.

Ropley lie third in County Division 1 and strengthened their standing with a remarkable four-wicket win over Ryde, who are probably now out of the promotion frame.

It was Ropley's fifth win in only six games they have managed to play this season – the rest being lost to wet weather.

A third promotion on the spin could be within their grasp if they defeat table topping Shrewton today in what promises to be a season defining game at Berry Hill.

Promotion could though depend on the club attaining accreditation from the Hampshire Cricket Board, whose grounds team will soon be paying another visit.

It's hard to think the HCB officials will find too much wrong when they come calling.

Ropley boast a tastefully designed £350,000 pavilion and clubhouse, formally opened by former England captain David Gower in 2008 and built alongside a gently sloping



ROPLEY: Standing (from left): Tom Stennett, Ed Stennett, Nick Gerrard, Andrew Walker, Barry Newton, Will Gabb. Seated: Rob Smith, Howard Biddle, James Forrest, Miles Greenwood, Alex Stogden.

playing area. Alongside are two permanent artificial grass practice nets, a net cage ready to roll on to the square on match days, sightscreens and a pretty decent square and outfield, some of which doubles up as the village soccer pitch.

The £5,000 covers, part funded by the HCB's Cricket in the Community scheme and another £1,000 from East Hampshire District Council, ironically arrived soon after Ropley had suffered more than

most from the bad weather which devastated the start of the cricket season.

The excellent facilities Ropley boast have triggered a genuine upsurge of interest in cricket in a village which has only 1,500 or so inhabitants.

The village recreation ground vibrates to the thwack of bat on willow during the midweek evenings when boys and girls from age seven years upwards descend for games and coaching sessions.

"We've got teams at under-7 up to under-17 and probably 80 or so junior cricketers on our books," beamed chairman Chris Graham.

"It's a fantastic sight on junior cricket nights when all the mums and dads come along."

But for the time being all eyes are focused on today's visit of Shrewton – arguably the biggest match Ropley have faced in years.

If they win it, who knows what the future could hold for the go-ahead village club.

Local Cricket Spotlight

FOUR-WAY BATTLE FOR LEAGUE TITLE

THE County Division 1 championship race turned into the home straight today with nine points effectively separating the four clubs chasing the silverware.

Shrewton, Ropley, Ventnor II and Gosport Borough occupied the top four spots at lunchtime – with the situation certain to change by close of play.

The Ropley-Shrewton showdown in the Itchen Valley countryside is unlikely to be a title decider but, like Gosport Borough's visit to Lymington, it will be highly significant.

Seven days ago, Shrewton were sweeping all before them – but then along came 2013 runners-up Ellingham and the whole picture at the league summit changed.

Dan Bingley (31) apart, the Shrews top order fell apart against Mark Burrett (3-26) and Brett Spicer (3-57) and it needed skipper Chris Brewer (66) with a middle-order rescue act to steer Shrewton to 174.

FINEST RUN CHASE

Ellingham, having bowled their hosts out inside 37 overs, swept to a seven-wicket win on the back of Aaron Barker's 79, with support from James McPherson (35) and Burrett (24).

Ropley produced arguably the finest run chase in their history when they overhauled Ryde's towering 328-8 to win by four wickets with two balls of an epic match to spare.

The manner of Ropley's victory laid down a marker for today's crunch meeting with Shrewton, which is expected to have a major bearing on the outcome of the title race.

Promotion outsiders Ryde found themselves in early trouble at 29-2, but left-hander Ben Wadmore (74) controlled the innings well.

Cameron Mitchell blasted 96 as Ryde raced to 328-8.

Ropley's reply again started positively with Nick Gerrard (59) posting his third successive half-century which, with sound support from Rob Smith (32) and Howard Biddle (44), saw the hosts post a good platform to make a charge at the target.

Myles Greenwood (45) combined with Alex Stogden to put together a 115 for the fifth wicket.

Stogden batted beautifully and timed his unbeaten 93 to perfection as Ropley snatched a glorious victory with two balls of an epic match to spare. Lymington, second



TITLE RUN IN

Shrewton: Ropley (a)(today), Ryde (h), Purbrook (h), Portchester (a), New Milton (h).

Ropley: Shrewton (h), Purbrook (a), Portchester (h), New Milton (a), Sarisbury Athletic (h).

Ventnor: Rowledge (a), Bournemouth (h), St Cross Symondians (a), Hook & Newnham Basics (h), Ryde (a).

Gosport Borough: Lymington (a), Rowledge (h), Bournemouth (a), St Cross Symondians (h), Hook & Newnham Basics (a).

BIG HITTER: Sam Bruin smashed 112 not out for Hook against Rowledge.

overnight, saw their seven-match winning run ended when Ventnor beat them by six wickets at Steephill.

The result dropped Lymington several places to sixth – making today's visit by Gosport Borough critical for both sides.

Tom Atkins (42) and Kelly (23) gave Lymington a steady start but, as Rob Snell (3-19) and spinner Dave Bevan (3-14) made inroads, only James Parker (30) made any impression.

Defending a modest 173, Lymington made initial breakthroughs but an unbroken century

partnership between Pierre Kriel (61) and Ben Woodhouse (41) got Ventnor home.

A glance at their remaining fixtures suggests Ventnor are a good bet for one of the promotion places.

Gosport were struggling at 80-5 against relegation threatened Sarisbury Athletic when Craig Stares (56) was joined by Tom Larnier (80 not out) in a century stand that saw the Borough to 258-8 and an eventual 97-run victory.

Sarisbury's fragile order went over for 161.

Mark Toogood hit 126 for United Services – only to finish on the los-

ing side as Sean Figgins (63) helped Purbrook chase down 256 to win by two wickets with ten balls to spare.

Like US, Locks Heath are in free-fall – their visit to Portchester being all done and dusted in quick time as Dave O'Neill (5-40) and Aussie Andrew Walker (4-28) ripped them out for 72.

Portchester won by ten wickets to stay fifth.

Evergreen seamer Dave Crossley ripped into Fareham & Crofton's frail middle-order, returning a league best 6-23 to pave the way for three-wicket New Milton win at Fernhill.

Crossley's spell sent Fareham from the comfort of 50-0 (Sam Stoddart 30) to 100 all out.

It was far from plain sailing for New Milton, who were reliant on Steve Watts (29) curbing the probing off-spin of Zimbabwean teen Campbell Saul, whose effective 3-12 return took his County 1 victim haul soaring to 19.

Saints fan Saul didn't use to get a bowl for his Peterhouse School team in Zimbabwe as he was the wicket-keeper!

BATTERING

St Cross Symondians can take much credit for fielding three sides in the top five rungs of the Hampshire recreational pyramid, but it is beginning to look as though their thirds have had their time in County 1.

A 350-run battering and ultimate 137-run defeat by fellow strugglers Bournemouth II has left Steve Postle's troops ensconced in the bottom two with only five games to play.

Jonny Coombs (88) prospered in partnerships with Alex Kennedy (37) and later Curtis Watton (70) as Bournemouth rampaged their way to 350-7 with Jack Owens scoring a late 43 not out.

Tabs Farooq strapped on the pads to open the response for St Cross, who replied with 213, Graham Barrett (40), Simon Culmer (39 not out) and Richard Boote (33) top scoring.

Kennedy (3-36) and Rob Coombs (3-45) shared six of the wickets.

Local gossip suggests Rowledge II can't wait to get their side out of the CD1 firing line and they well to a sixth straight defeat, inflicted by 156 runs at Hook & Newnham Basics, for whom Sam Bruin made 112 out of a home total of 278-8.

Kish Parmar cleaned up with a 6-21 return as Rowledge scraped 122 all out in reply.

PREMIER LEAGUE INS AND OUTS

from page 3

SAINTS

In: Dusan Tadic (FC Twente) £10.9m, Graziano Pelle (Feyenoord) £8m, Ryan Bertrand, below (Chelsea) Loan.
Out: Andy Robinson (Bolton Wanderers) Free, Tom Leggett (Aston Villa) Free, Isaac Nehemie (Aston Villa) Free, Danny Fox (Nottingham Forest) Free, Rickie Lambert (Liverpool) undisclosed, Lee Barnard (Southend, free), Adam Lallana (Liverpool) £25m, Luke Shaw (Manchester United) £27m, Dejan Lovren (Liverpool) £20m, Calum Chambers (Arsenal) £12m
Released: Guly do Prado, Jonathan Forte.



Stoke City

In: Phil Bardsley (Sunderland) Free, Steve Sidwell (Fulham) Free, Mame Biram Diouf (Hannover) Free, Dionatan Teixeira (Banska Bystrica) Undisclosed, Bojan Krkic (Barcelona) Undisclosed
Out: Michaelightly (Burnley) undisclosed.
Released: Juan Aguado, Matthew Etherington.

Sunderland

In: Jordi Gomez (Wigan Athletic) Free, Billy Jones (West Bromwich Albion) Free, Costel Pantilimon (Manchester City) Free, Patrick van Aanholt (Chelsea) Undisclosed
Out: Billy Knott (Bradford City) Free, Phil Bardsley (Stoke City) Free, Craig Gardner (West Bromwich Albion) Free, Jack Colback (Newcastle United) Free, John Egan (Gillingham) Free, Kieren Westwood (Sheffield Wed) Free, Jordan Pickford (Bradford) Loan, Ignacio Scocco (Newell's Old Boys) £2.1m.
Released: Carlos Cuellar, Andrea Dossena, Oscar Ustari, David Vaughan.

Swansea City

In: Lukasz Fabianski (Arsenal) Free, Bafetimbi Gomis (Lyon) Free, Marvin Emmes (Middlesbrough) Free, Gylfi Sigurdsson (Tottenham) Undisclosed, Jefferson Montero (Monarcas Morelia) Undisclosed.
Out: Ben Davies (Tottenham) Undisclosed, Michel Vorm (Tottenham) Undisclosed, Alejandro Pozuelo (Rayo Vallecano) Undisclosed.
Released - Leroy Lita, Jemad Meade, David Ngog, Darnel Situ,

Tottenham Hotspur

In: Ben Davies (Swansea) Undisclosed, Michel Vorm (Swansea) Undisclosed
Out: Heurelho Gomes (Watford) Free, Jake Livermore (Hull) £8m, Gwion Edwards (Crawley) Undisclosed, Kenny McEvoy (Peterborough) Loan, Gylfi Sigurdsson (Swansea) Undisclosed, Alex Pritchard (Brentford) Loan, Kenny McEvoy (Peterborough)
Released: Cameron Lancaster

West Bromwich Albion

In: Craig Gardner (Sunderland) Free, Joleon Lescott (Man City) Free, Chris Baird (Burnley) Free, Andre Wisdom (Liverpool) Loan, Brown Ideye (Dynamo Kiev) £10m
Out: Billy Jones (Sunderland) Free, Liam Ridgwell (Portland Timbers) Free, Steven Reid (Burnley) Free, Cameron Gayle (Shrewsbury) Free, George Thorne (Derby) Undisclosed
Released: Scott Allan, Nicolas Anelka, Zoltan Gera, Diego Lugano.

West Ham United

In: Mauro Zarate (Velez Sarsfield) Undisclosed, Cheikhou Kouyate (Anderlecht) Undisclosed, Aaron Cresswell (Ipswich) Undisclosed, Diego Poyet (Charlton) Tribal, Enner Valencia (Pachuca) £12m
Out: Joe Cole (Aston Villa) Free, Stephen Henderson (Charlton) Free, Raphael Spiegel (Crawley) Loan
Released: Jack Collison, Callum Driver, George McCartney, Jordan Spence.

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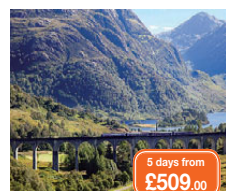
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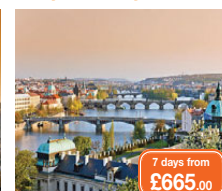
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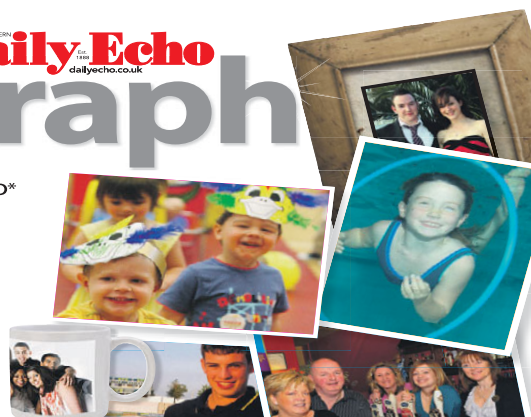


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STAND AND DELIVER: Eastleigh's new terraces were used for the first time during the friendly against AFC Bournemouth.

NEW STAND WILL MAKE SILVERLAKE A "PROPER FOOTBALL GROUND"

STEWART Donald, chairman of Conference Premier new boys Eastleigh, believes the club's new stand due for construction will change the feel of the Silverlake Stadium.

The 2,300-seater stand has been given the thumbs up by Eastleigh Borough Council as phase two of the planning permission application has been granted, *writes Kieran James.*

Groundwork is due to take place within the next few weeks and the stand, that will be placed at the motorway end of the stadium, is aimed to be completed by October.

The north and east terracing was completed in time for last Saturday's goal-packed home friendly against Crawley Town which ended in a 3-3 draw.

It's all part of the Spitfires' plan to get the stadium up to Football League standard – something Donald believes they are close to achieving.

Thanking the local authority for



STEWART DONALD

their support, he said: "The council has helped us all the way along.

"We were pretty confident we would get it (the planning permission) because we work very closely with them.

"The new stand will change the

feel of the football ground.

"The terracing has come in now and I think that has had a very good response from the fans.

"It does feel different already, but to have 19 rows of seats behind the goal in a stand that will seat six times as many people as we've already got will transform the ground to one that feels like a proper football ground."

When asked how far the ground is from Football League standard, the Oxford-based chief executive of Bridle Insurance, who owns the majority of the club, said: "Not far.

"I think you need to have a capacity of 5,000 to be playing League football or the ability to get your ground to 5,000.

"We are just below that now once the stand is completed which we hope to have done by September/October.

"With a little bit more work down the main stand side, which I don't think will be a massive amount, we will be at Football League standard."

Donald added: "We are looking at the possibility of getting help from the Football Conference for the main stand.

"But what we don't want to do is slow down the process of the build because we only have until March to get the standards we need to make sure that we are not thrown out of the Conference.

"If waiting for the grant means that we won't hit that timescale then we will have to just get on with it and hope we might get some grant money."

Donald gave a huge vote of thanks to all the fans that have worked throughout the summer to help the club achieve the deadlines for the terracing to be put up.

Supporters have toiled tirelessly to take down old dugouts, turnstiles, seating at the motorway end... to name but a few jobs, and Donald acknowledged: "I am absolutely delighted with the fans.

"There has been an awful lot to do in loads of different areas of the ground.

"Without the fans I don't think we would have made the deadlines we needed to make.

"You cannot underestimate how hard some of them have worked and, also, it's been very pleasing seeing new faces here lending a hand."

Spitfires sign young guns

EASTLEIGH have signed emerging young trio Jack Smith, Harrison Weekes and Tony Lee on permanent deals.

All three joined the club's scholarship scheme last year and were brought to manager Richard Hill's attention by the Spitfires' head of youth Lee Peacock, pictured below.

Peacock said: "The boys have done fantastically well since joining the club and now have a fantastic platform when training with the first-team squad to learn from the manager and their teammates in order to showcase their abilities.

"This is the next step and the hardest step in trying to earn a contract with Eastleigh"

The trio have been included in Hill's pre-season campaign as the Conference South champions prepare to set sail into the newly-named Vanarama Conference Premier at Nuneaton Town next week (August 9).

Hill said: "I have been impressed with all three players this pre-season and it shows that if young players are willing to work hard in the club's scholarship scheme there is the opportunity to progress to the first-team squad.

"They're all still a long way



off, but at least it

shows we've got some sort of organisation in the club now for young lads to see.

"Our scholarships are also an academic scheme and, as manager, I have a duty to the parents as well as to the football club.

"We have to make sure that all our young lads keep their studies up to date at the same time as progressing as footballers."

Hill, meanwhile, is sceptical about adding any more senior players to his squad so close to the new season.

His worry is that players would be joining for the wrong reason at this late stage and could potentially upset the existing group.

He said: "You have to be careful. I've been demanding a bit more and a bit more of my players each week and how would you feel if you'd done the whole pre-season and then someone new was brought in a week before the first game?

"I've got lads who've been back for six weeks and worked their nuts off and committed themselves to Eastleigh FC.

"The only players out there now have been touted round here, there and everywhere by their agents, giving them false hope, and now they just want the best deal they can."

DESPITE their uncertain future Salisbury City are due to play their first pre-season fixture today.

Former Whites player Scott Bartlett is bringing a Forest Green Rovers XI to Salisbury for a friendly – the first game played at the Ray Mac since April.

The Whites, who have lost a number of players during all their financial troubles, will be playing a team of trialists

FIRST GAME FOR CITY

assembled by potential new manager Steve Claridge.

Mark Winter, one of Salisbury City's new consortium board of owners, said: "Given all the torrid events of the summer, many of us wondered if this day would ever happen."

Although the legal wrangles

and the appeal to the FA and Football Conference have been delayed, the preparations for the season cannot be delayed any longer.

"This Saturday's fixture is vital, not just so Steve can run the rule over a number of players, it is also vital to help the

club raise some much needed income," added Winter.

He said the board of directors have had some amazing support from hardcore supporters, businesses and the city as a whole in the last few months and they hope to see the same support today by people turning up for the friendly.

Kick-off is at 3pm. Tickets are £7.50 adults, £5 concessions and free for children.



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